

## Palestinian boy shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A 14-year-old Palestinian boy was fatally shot during a stone-throwing incident in the occupied West Bank, the military said Saturday. The army said the incident occurred when troops entered the village of Yata Friday. "Stones were thrown at military force in Yata and the unit opened fire. Afterwards, the body of a 14-year-old youth was brought to the Alia Hospital," an army statement said. "The connection between the two incidents is being examined." Israel Radio identified the youth as Izz Bader Al Harush and said his body was snatched from the hospital in Hebron and buried. Israel has kept most of the Palestinians in the occupied territories under curfew since the Gulf war began Jan. 17, saying it wanted to prevent violence by pro-Iraqi Palestinians. In the past two weeks it has gradually loosened the curfews during daylight hours.

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# U.S. orders ground assault

## Bush rejects Iraqi acceptance of Soviet peace proposal

### Over million soldiers brace for biggest battle since World War II

Combined agency dispatches

THE UNITED STATES Saturday rejected Iraq's acceptance of a Soviet proposal to withdraw its forces from Kuwait and ordered a ground assault against Iraqi forces despite last-minute appeals from Moscow.

The U.S. Defense Department said President George Bush had given final approval for a ground assault against Iraqi troops.

"Clearly, there could be a ground war at any point," a senior Defense Department official told reporters as the clock ticked past the deadline.

Mr. Bush expressed "regret" that Iraq had not moved to withdraw its army before the noon (1700 GMT) deadline. "Military action continues on schedule and according to plan," Mr. Bush said in a statement issued by the White House.

There was no immediate word on when a ground assault would commence. But White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said: "The coalition forces have no alternative but to continue to prosecute the war."

In its first official comment after deadline had passed, Iraq scolded the U.S. ultimatum. Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, dismissed Mr. Bush's demand as "an aggressive ultimatum to which we will pay no attention."

Mr. Fitzwater said Iraq "appears to have no intention of complying with the U.N. resolutions. Indeed (Iraq's) only response at noon was to launch another Scud missile attack on Israel."

There were no reports of damage or injuries in that Scud attack. Israeli officials said.

U.S. officials said they had not been able to fully understand last-minute diplomatic statement by Iraq

officials in Moscow and the United Nations. But they said the statements clearly did not indicate Iraq's acceptance of coalition terms.

A White House statement said U.S. commanders had "detected no military activity which would indicate any withdrawal of (Iraq) from Kuwait."

"Similarly, there has been no communication between Iraq and the United Nations that would suggest a willingness to withdraw under the conditions of the coalition plan," the statement said.

Mr. Fitzwater told Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told Mr. Bush in a phone call Saturday that he had asked for a U.N. review of the Soviet peace proposal and had also discussed the matter with British Prime Minister John Major and French President Francois Mitterrand.

Both Mr. Major and Mr. Mitterrand "indicated full support for the coalition withdrawal plan," Fitzwater said.

Mr. Fitzwater reiterated the U.S. position that the Soviet-brokered peace plan was unacceptable.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz had told a news conference in Moscow earlier Saturday that his government would accept the Soviet proposal, calling for Iraq to completely withdraw from Kuwait in 21 days.

The coalition terms allowed only seven days.

Mr. Fitzwater said Mr. Gorbachev called Mr. Bush at 1615 GMT and that the two leaders talked for nearly half an hour.

Iranian and Canadian diplomats, quoting Soviet Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov at the Security Council, said Iraq had responded favourably to some of Mr. Bush's conditions for an end to the 36-day-old war.

But Washington stood firmly and that the two leaders talked for nearly half an hour.

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### Soviets unwilling to risk U.S. ties

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT MIKHAIL Gorbachev appealed to U.S. President George Bush on Saturday to delay an allied ground offensive against Iraq for one or two days, a Soviet government spokesman said.

But the Kremlin made it clear that Washington's rejection of its Gulf peace plan and a ground offensive by the anti-Iraq coalition would not endanger U.S.-Soviet relations.

Moscow's apparent resignation to a land war in the Arabian desert followed allied opposition to a Soviet-Iraqi initiative that rendered it meaningless in the absence of any positive reaction from the United States.

And it signalled that President Gorbachev was not prepared to put his ties with the West at further risk in order to head off a ground war, despite pressure from Soviet hardliners backing Iraq. Moscow's former Middle East ally.

Just hours before the coalition's 1700 GMT deadline for the start of an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, Mr. Gorbachev's chief spokesman told a news conference the Kremlin would not sacrifice its ties with Washington over the Gulf crisis.

Spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko was speaking after Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz announced Moscow that Baghdad accepted the latest Soviet proposals for ending the war and averting an allied ground offensive.

Mr. Ignatenko said President Gorbachev, in a telephone conversation on Friday with President Bush, had indicated the actions of the U.S.-led coalition were in line with the will of the world community.

"President Gorbachev expressed deep concern the American people had taken on the heavy burden of implementing the will of the international community in overcoming its serious obstacle to international peace, which the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait constituted," he said.

"No ordeals, (the Soviet) president emphasised, could undermine the choice taken by the leaders of the two countries for improved relations.

"We have a vision of a new world, a new policy which we will some day arrive at and I believe this day is not far away."

Mr. Gorbachev also was in contact with leaders of the allied coalition and others and was pursuing a settlement in the Gulf war despite the expiration of the U.S.-set deadline, Mr. Ignatenko said.

"I think the attitude of Iraq towards the ultimatum will be changing," Mr. Ignatenko said. He added there were "hints" that the differences between the U.S. conditions and the Soviet peace plan "were not so great."

Mr. Ignatenko said Mr. Gorbachev, in the telephone call with Mr. Bush, suggested "integrating" the Soviet and U.S. proposals and asked the American president to delay "by one or two days" the ground offensive against Iraq. Mr. Ignatenko was reported, the Israeli army said.

Air raid sirens wailed at 6:51 p.m. (1651 GMT) as many Israelis were listening to Israeli Radio count down the last minutes before the deadline expired.

Israeli Radio had just reported that a Soviet diplomat at the United Nations had said Iraq responded positively in the United Nations to some elements of the U.S. ultimatum.

A U.S. diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted Soviet U.N. Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov as telling the Security Council the Iraqis "had found favourable elements in the American proposal."

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Aziz left Moscow after two days of meetings with Soviet leaders, during which he agreed to a six-point Soviet plan to end the war.

As Mr. Aziz left, Mr. Gorbachev advised him "to weigh everything, and think over what this last stage of the war could bring," Mr. Ignatenko said earlier in the day.

Afterwards, Mr. Gorbachev made telephone calls to four leaders to discuss again the efforts to forestall the ground offensive, Mr. Ignatenko said. He called Mr. Bush, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Iranian Minister Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The leaders discussed the "new character of the situation after agreement by Iraq for an unconditional withdrawal," he said.

The Soviet spokesman rejected any further diplomatic contacts with Iraq, noting that Mr. Aziz had not been fully empowered to negotiate a package deal that could meet the coalition's demands.

"I believe Iraq still has time to act, but unfortunately it is not days or months, but hours and minutes," Mr. Ignatenko said.

The army, citing security considerations, also declined to say

(Continued on page 5)

### Scud attacks continue

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ FIRED a conventional-warhead missile at Israel Saturday nine minutes before the U.S.-imposed deadline passed for Baghdad to agree to withdraw from Kuwait. No injuries were reported, the Israeli army said.

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Israeli Radio had just reported that a Soviet diplomat at the United Nations had said Iraq responded positively in the United Nations to some elements of the U.S. ultimatum.

A half-hour later, the army spokesman, Brigadier-General Nachman Shai, said no injuries had been caused by the attack. He did not release details of where the missile hit, but said it had been a conventional warhead, not a chemical weapon.

"After investigations it appears there are no injuries from the missile fired at us. We don't know about any damage yet," an emergency radio broadcast said.

It was the 16th Iraqi missile attack on Israel since the Gulf war erupted on Jan. 17.

Previous attacks, which involved at least 35 Scud missiles, have killed four Israelis and wounded more than 300.

All carried conventional warheads.

The last missile was launched against Israel on Feb. 19 and caused no casualties or damage.

Asked if U.S.-supplied Patriot anti-missile missiles had been fired to intercept the incoming Scud, Gen. Shai said: "It is policy not to reveal such information that could help Iraq."

The army, citing security considerations, also declined to say

(Continued on page 5)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday confers with two visiting French parliamentarians (Petra photo)

### Jordan urges continued peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday reviewed the situation in the Gulf and discussed means of ending the war at a meeting with members of the French National Assembly Bernard Stasi and Jacques Barrot.

Discussions also covered prospects for settling all problems in the Middle East region, Jordan Television said. It said that the Crown Prince reaffirmed Jordan's support for the Soviet peace proposal and said that diplomatic efforts should continue towards settling the conflict.

The Crown Prince told the two parliamentarians,

who represent a centrist group in the Assembly's committee of foreign affairs, that Jordan had been exerting efforts from the start to settle the crisis but these efforts were aborted.

In discussing Franco-Jordanian relations, the Crown Prince called on France to help establish a security zone for the Mediterranean region based on mutual cooperation and respect for national interests.

The two parliamentarians, who arrived here Friday evening, are expected to leave for Paris Sunday (see earlier story on page 5).

### Badran: Allies push Mideast into flames

First Syrian oil shipment arrives

By Ian Mackenzie  
Reuters

AMMAN — The Gulf allies' rejection of a Soviet Gulf peace plan and Iraq's agreement to withdraw from Kuwait will set the Middle East ablaze, Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Saturday.

In an interview just hours before the expiry of a U.S. ultimatum to Iraq to quit Kuwait or face a massive offensive, Mr. Badran said Baghdad's acceptance of the plan calling for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait showed it wanted peace.

Asked about the rejection of the revised Soviet proposals by Washington and London and their insistence on the ultimatum to start withdrawing by 1700 GMT Saturday, he said:

"This means that the ground war will take place and that the region will be engulfed in flames and the victims on either side will be much more than anyone can imagine."

The United States said Saturday that Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet proposals had no effect on the ultimatum.

On U.S. demands in its ultimatum that Iraq leave Kuwait in one week, the prime minister said some military specialists described this as impossible.

"The principle of withdrawal

has been endorsed and the U.N. Security Council has to supervise this withdrawal and place neutral forces between the two sides.

"If the aim is withdrawal from Kuwait territory, I see no difference between one week and three weeks, because as is known any military pullout from a practical point of view is almost impossible within one week."

Asked what he thought Washington's basic aim was behind its conditions, Mr. Badran said:

"We in Jordan want peace to prevail in the region and this withdrawal to occur. If a chance is given to the Soviet peace plan, the goal of withdrawal will be achieved and the aims of the Security Council will be achieved."

"But if the other goal is to put military ultimatums, I am certain that this war will go on for a long time, because it is not logical to deal with such methods in this form if we are going to achieve the peace."

The United States said Saturday that Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet peace plan had no effect on the ultimatum.

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"The principle of withdrawal

(Continued on page 5)

### Arafat doubts West will tackle Palestinian problem after war

Reuters

PALESTINE LIBERATION Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Saturday he did not believe in Western pledges to seek a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict after the Gulf war.

He also said that the PLO might intensify the Palestinian uprising in Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It has been talked about, but in general I have no confidence in words or promises," Mr. Arafat told Reuters, referring to Western commitments to address the Palestinian issue.

The United States and its allies in the anti-Iraqi coalition have rejected Palestinian and Iraqi demands to link a military withdrawal from Kuwait to an Israeli pullout from the occupied territories.

But some European members of the alliance have indicated they would favour talks to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict after the Gulf crisis ends.

The PLO leader said that the 150,000 Palestinians who have remained in the emirate, many who have lived there for decades, will be targeted because of Palestinian support for Baghdad.

"I must be made clear that the PLO will pursue its struggle until independence... at all levels," whether by intensification of the intifada in the occupied territories or resistance in

Bahrain.

"The entire Arab Nation is going to lose if the coalition achieves its objectives."

He refrained from criticising Arab

(Continued on page 5)

### Iraqis no pushover — military sources

LONDON (R) — Just hours before a U.S. deadline to pull out, Iraq's army in Kuwait remained dug into defensive positions and could still put up a hard fight against an allied ground assault, military sources said Saturday. "I would counsel you against assuming it is going to be a pushover," said a senior military source in London. The sources also said they believed Iraq would use chemical weapons if forced into a corner. Chemical munitions had been moved to Iraqi front-line artillery and multiple rocket-launcher units within the past week, they said. Allied intelligence had detected only localized Iraqi troop movements, probably to regroup after they had been bombed and to replace casualties. The sources said the Iraqi army's morale was mixed. "We have seen in minor clashes that they are still capable of fighting pretty aggressively and we do not know how widespread that will be," said the senior source. Weeks of bombing and artillery barrages directed against Iraqi positions have been intended to minimize allied casualties in a major ground push.

### Iraq threatens to bring democratic rule to Kuwait

Combined agency dispatches

He said President Bush issued his ultimatum to divert attention from the Soviet initiative.

The radio leveled a personal attack on Mr. Bush, calling him a criminal and a madman who had tried to bully civilians with his warplanes. It said his character combined "boyish contrariness and cowardly feeble-mindedness."

Referring to his ultimatum, the radio said Mr. Bush had lost the respect of those who listened to his "barking, shrieking and hysterics."

Baghdad Radio said in a commentary by the U.S. president thought that Iraq's positive response to the Soviet peace initiative was a result of "his quixotic and failed ultimatum and his ridiculous threats."

"But they (the threats) are more like cock's crows, which Bush resembles in shape and manners," the radio said.

## Green activist lambasts allies, says Israel exploiting Germany

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The German Green Party took its campaign for peace in the Gulf to Jordan Saturday with a harsh attack on the American-led anti-Iraq coalition and Israel, which it accused of exploiting German sentiments over World War II.

Jürgen Maier, the only delegate in a four-member Green team to cross the River Jordan from the occupied territories after a political uproar caused by criticism of Israel, also said he found that the forces of peace in the Jewish state had taken a different direction altogether in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

"The peace movement in Israel is the only peace movement in the world which calls for war," Mr. Maier told a press conference. "They are now calling for continued war and the total destruction of the Iraqi military machine regardless of the fact that tens of thousands of people could be killed," he said.

"What kind of a peace movement is that?" asked Mr. Maier, 28, who wore a badge with the slogan "pas de guerre pour le pétrole" (no war for oil) on his lapel, and, by design or coincidence, a green sweater as well.

Mr. Maier, who held talks with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Lower House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat, Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Mutassim Bileisi and Interior Ministry Secretary-General Salameh Hammad earlier in the day (see page 3), told the press conference that the Greens supported Jordan's "constructive and positive" position towards the Gulf crisis.

The party, which sees itself as

representing 2.4 million Germans as evident in the last election results — another 70,000 votes and we would have had 45 members in parliament under the proportionate electoral system — is united in its call for an immediate ceasefire in the war and a negotiated settlement of the conflict, Mr. Maier said.

But there are disagreements when it comes to the issue of Israel, he said and attributed it to the German feeling of "guilt" towards the Jews.

### 'Clumsy' statement

Mr. Maier characterised as "clumsy" a statement of one of his team members — Christian Strobble — who caused an uproar in Israel when he was quoted as saying "Iraq's attacks on Israel are the logical, almost compelling consequence of Israel's politics vis-a-vis the Palestinians and the Arabs," said Mr. Maier in an implicit reference to past German arms supplies to Iraq.

The message inherent in the remarks of Mr. Strobble, who said he was resigning following the controversy, was that "Iraqi missile attacks on Tel Aviv are the result of Israel's foreign policy," Mr. Maier said. "But it was clumsy," he pointed out.

The Green Party, which showed well in elections shortly after its creation in the early 80s but could only get two seats in the 660-strong Bundestag in last December's all-German polls, believes that there is not enough European awareness of the real issues involved in the Middle East situation. It will seek to address this shortcoming, Mr. Maier said.

Subsequently, Mr. Strobble and the two other members of the team decided that "their personal

security was threatened" and left for home, Mr. Maier said.

"I am the only member of the delegation who decided to complete the original tour, which included Jordan," he explained.

On the broader political front, Mr. Maier ridiculed the allies and accused them of hypocrisy by purporting to defend international legitimacy while some of the partners in the coalition themselves were guilty of violating international law.

Mr. Maier cited as examples the American invasion of Panama and Grenada and the "Turkish occupation of Cyprus" in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions. "These countries get military aid for their occupation but a country like Iraq gets U.S. military intervention for its actions," he said. "We totally reject this double standard."

He described Israel as a "tacit member" of the anti-Iraq coalition and qualified it by saying: "It was the Israeli government which called for a war. It pressured the U.S. to start this war. It ruled out any negotiated solution to the conflict. It now stands out in saying Iraqi withdrawal (from Kuwait) is not enough. (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's removal is not enough, and that the Iraqi military machine should be destroyed with a crushing defeat."

Israel wants to become a hegemonic power in the region," he added. However, he warned: "as long as the Palestinian problem remains unresolved, as long as Israel continues to violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, as long as Israel occupies other people's lands, there will never be peace in the Middle East," he recalled.

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## Text of Iraqi remarks on Soviet peace plan

MOSCOW (R) — Following is the full text of Iraq's statement accepting a six-point Soviet plan to end the Gulf war, read to journalists in English by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz Saturday:

Last evening the Soviet government declared a proposal about the situation in the Gulf region and in order to achieve a peaceful settlement to that situation, in accordance with the U.N. resolutions.

You are familiar with the points in that declaration, but anyhow I am going to reiterate those points in English.

First, Iraq agrees to comply with Resolution 660 and therefore withdraw immediately and unconditionally all its forces from Kuwait to the positions in which they were located on Aug. 1, 1990.

Second, the withdrawal of the forces shall begin on the day following the ceasefire and the cessation of all military operations on land, at sea and in the air.

Third, the withdrawal shall be completed within a period of 21 days, including the withdrawal from the city of Kuwait within the first four days of the said period.

Four, immediately upon the completion of withdrawal of the troops from Kuwait, the grounds for which all the other resolutions of the Security Council were adopted will have been removed and thereby those resolutions shall cease to operate.

Five, all prisoners of war shall be released and repatriated within three days of the ceasefire and the cessation of all military

operations.

Last point, the sixth, the ceasefire and withdrawal shall be confirmed, verified and supervised by observers and/or a peacekeeping force as determined by the Security Council.

These are the points of the plan, of the initiative that was declared by the Soviet Union last evening.

I here tell you that the Iraqi government fully endorses this plan and fully supports it.

Last night the Revolutionary Command Council issued a statement saying that Iraq supports the Soviet initiative and it appreciates the Soviet efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the situation.

We particularly appreciate the efforts of His Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev and his government in this regard.

The second point I would like to address is the allegations made by the American government yesterday that Iraq has created a new ecological situation in Kuwait, and you are aware of those allegations.

My government has strongly denied those allegations in a statement made last night and the Iraqi government asked the Security Council to establish immediately a committee to investigate the situation in Kuwait. If the American authorities would like to use this pretext to justify their aggressive position, such a pretext has no grounds.

land battle without being routed."

"We have prepared ourselves for burning the bodies of the corrupt and evil invaders, and our revenge will be devastating and ruthless. This revenge will be merciless, merciless, merciless," it said in a commentary.

Iraq also urged its troops to "strike where it hurts."

Baghdad Radio called on more than a million troops entrenched on the southern front: "Strike at the enemy where it hurts."

"Strike and the whole of Iraq and the (Muslims) faithful will be on your side," the radio told front line forces. "Your families are waiting for you to return victorious... you are defending your families and homeland."

The community accused the allies of rejecting peace initiatives to carry out a premeditated battle plan.

In another commentary Baghdad Radio denounced Mr. Bush as stupid and added: "It would have been possible to overlook this except for the fact that this madman... is the president of the United States."

## Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

members of the anti-Iraqi coalition such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

"In my opinion, if Iraq is struck, no Arab will benefit from its participation in the coalition," Mr. Arafat said.

"Palestinians lashed out at U.S. President George Bush over his ultimatum to Iraq to quit Kuwait or face a massive land war."

"Who does he think he is, this dog Bush? Iraq should fight to the bitter end and teach him a lesson," one merchant said to another outside their shops on Saladin Street, Arab Jerusalem's main business district.

"Saddam would be stupid to accept Bush's conditions: It is better to die than to surrender to this animal," another middle-aged man said.

But on a hot Saturday afternoon, with Israeli police and other security forces patrolling the streets, the atmosphere among many Palestinians was sombre only hours before the U.S. deadline for Iraq.

They expressed fears that a ground war would send the turbulent Middle East into years of turmoil and deal another setback to the Palestinian cause."

## Missiles

(Continued from page 1)

where the Scud or dehris from the Scud night have landed.

Explosions were heard by residents in occupied Jerusalem and Tel Aviv after sirens sounded.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Saturday that the Gulf war must go on, arguing that a quick ceasefire would leave Iraq with most of its army intact and in a position to threaten Israel.

"We are far from destroying the Iraqi war machine... and if he (Saddam Hussein) withdraws from Kuwait, he will still have part of his war machine and this can certainly cause a problem in the future," Mr. Arens said in an interview with Israel Radio.

Mr. Arens predicted that the allied forces would "crush" Iraq if the war continued.

## Pentagon sued over ban on press access to war dead

### Agencies

THE GOVERNMENT's ban on public access to the U.S. arrival of Gulf war dead is an unconstitutional bid to manipulate public opinion, according to a lawsuit filed Friday.

The policy aims to control media coverage of the war's effects and "limit the political and emotional impact that the deaths of Americans will have on the American public," said the suit filed in federal court by a group of journalists, veterans' organisations and a military family support group.

The government wants to avoid pictures of "rows of coffins lined up on the tarmac of Dover air force base," said Kate Martin, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing the plaintiffs.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. district court for the District of Col-

umbia, seeks a preliminary injunction ordering the Department of Defense and the air force to allow the media and public to view the arrival of war dead at the base in Dover, Delaware.

Ms. Martin said that if the ground war begins this weekend, the plaintiffs will seek an immediate temporary restraining order.

The Defense Department announced in January it would no longer allow the media and public to view the arrivals, as it had following previous U.S. military actions such as those in Lebanon, Panama and Grenada.

Colonel Miguel Monteverde, director of Defence Information at the Department of Defence, said Friday there was no political motivation for the policy.

"It's not as though we're keeping from the American people the fact that there are casualties," he said.

The plaintiffs said the ban

violates the constitution's guarantee of freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

Bobby Muller of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, said the government is trying to "insulate the American psyche from the human cost and the emotional devastation that war will certainly bring."

For 16 years, the public and the news media had been allowed on the Delaware base to witness the arrival of U.S. soldiers who died overseas.

But President George Bush complained in late 1989 when television networks split their screens to show him giving a White House news conference at the same time dead soldiers were arriving at the base as a result of the U.S. military invasion of Panama.

The base is the largest mortuary operated by the Defence Department, capable of putting into

costs.

They estimated it would cost \$6.4 billion to buy replacement weapons and ammunition, \$7 billion to keep U.S. troops in the Gulf once the fighting ends, and \$5.2 billion to return soldiers to the United States, Europe and elsewhere.

So far, of the \$3.5 billion in aid the United States has been promised by other countries, \$14.9 billion has been received in cash, goods and services, the White House said.

The countries that have provided the most assistance so far have been Saudi Arabia, with \$10.5 billion, Kuwait, \$3.5 billion, Germany, \$3 billion, Japan, \$1.3 billion, and the United Arab Emirates, \$1 billion.

If foreign commitments are fully honoured, and if hostilities end by March 31, the \$15 billion working capital account should be sufficient to cover the mounting U.S. deficit share of incremental costs," Mr. Darman said.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy at times and there will be a chance for scattered showers in rain.

Min./max. temp.

Amman ..... 5 / 14  
Aqaba ..... 13 / 23  
Deserts ..... 3 / 17  
Jordan Valley ..... 12 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-

caskets 100 bodies per day. It has storage space for 1,000 bodies.

Ms. Martin said the government was concerned that news coverage from the base would erode public support for the war.

"The only objective of the new policy is to limit news coverage and other speech that the government considers undesirable and to control and manipulate American public opinion," Ms. Martin said.

The Pentagon said it adopted the restrictions to protect the privacy of the families of the deceased soldiers.

But a representative of a private group that supports military families said the policy denies to the families the right to attend the traditional ceremonies honouring the dead soldiers.

The Justice Department, which will defend the Pentagon policy in court, had no comment.

Darman said.

"If these conditions are not met, however, it may be necessary to seek additional foreign contributions and U.S. appropriations," Mr. Darman said.

Mr. Darman, who has been struggling to cut into the massive federal budget deficit, said, "we've had very good results" in receiving foreign contributions to the war effort.

Many countries are paying on time exactly as scheduled, and I would think that that will be the pattern in general," he said.

Mr. Darman said the daily cost of the war varies sharply each day, depending upon weather conditions and the magnitude of air raid missions against enemy targets.

Mr. Bush's request was likely to be approved by Congress, which seldom challenges funding for Americans in combat, despite mounting U.S. deficit problems.

Credit line has been opened with the Syrians and we started taking delivery," Mr. Badran said.

Asked how five trucks loaded with petrol and four others filled with gas arrived on Saturday and others are on their way."

He said Syria had agreed to sell Jordan 30,000 tonnes of petrol at market rates.

"This is one contract and is extendable, and as soon as they finish facilities (to load road tankers) at homes, we shall start getting crude oil."

Badran said a newly-purchased tanker had started to load 100,000 tonnes of crude at a Yemeni port Saturday. It was expected to reach Aqaba by the end of the month and will anchor alongside a storage vessel.

Officials have said Jordan was considering chartering 50,000-tonne tankers as resupply vessels.

During that time, Mr. Aziz agreed to a Soviet peace plan that was modified in an effort to win U.S. approval. Besides giving the Iraqis a longer time to pull out, the Soviet plan said U.N. resolutions would be cancelled after withdrawal.

The United States was demanding that withdrawal be completed within seven days, that Iraq comply with U.N. provisions that Iraqi forces be removed from Kuwait City and prisoners released within 48 hours, and that Iraq remove booby traps and mines from Kuwait. Baghdad called the ultimatum "shameful."

Egypt, a key Arab member of the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition, said Saturday it supported Mr. Bush's position.

"We stress our support for the demands of the coalition states indicated in the statement issued by the

naval minesweeping operations moved closer to Kuwait's beaches to clear the way for a landing of a 17,000-man Marine amphibious force in the Gulf. As many as 80,000 Iraqi troops were said to be defending the beach.

Even before the U.S. ultimatum passed Saturday, fighting had intensified along the Saudi-Kuwait border.

U.S. marines and Iraqis reported inflicting heavy casualties on each other.

The intense activity on the battlefield came after two days of intense negotiations in Moscow between Mr. Aziz and President Gorbachev, and other top Soviet officials.

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## 200 women decry ultimatum in front of Iraq embassy

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Feelings of gloom and suspense dominated the atmosphere here Saturday house before the U.S. ultimatum for Iraq to quit Kuwait at 19:00 local time expired. While 200 Jordanian women held a rally in support for Iraq in front of the Iraqi embassy from 17:30 to 19:00, most Ammanites both in downtown and the hills were visibly apprehensive about the beginning of the ground war between Iraq and the coalition of 28 nations, which people expected would begin in a matter of hours.

While many Jordanians were glued to their radios most of

the afternoon others did not want to hear any news.

"I don't want to know what happens because I have no say in it anyway," said shopkeeper Mohammad Samahi.

A group of men near the Al Hussein Mosque in downtown Amman said they were on their way to pray as the deadline for the ultimatum approached. "We will pray for Saddam. We will pray for Iraq and the defeat of the foreign invaders in Arabia," said an elderly man as he moved towards the mosque.

While most of the capital remained quiet as the deadline approached, the 200 women in front of the Iraq embassy sang nationalistic songs and chanted

pro-Iraqi slogans in solidarity with the Iraqis.

Fearing that demonstrators may march on the American embassy, police doubled security patrols and sealed off the streets leading up the hill to the embassy.

"In the eyes of every foreigner I see Israel," said Ummah Mahmood Samhouri, who had come from Jabel Al Hussein's refugee camp to rally in support of Iraq.

Anti-Western feeling was high as women called on Iraq to defend itself to the last moment against the onslaught of the U.S.-led allied forces.

"There will be no capitulation by the Iraqis, there will only be coffee with American

soldiers going to Washington," shouted one woman.

"We were hoping that the U.S. will accept the Gorbachev peace proposal," said Emile Nafaa. "But now there is no hope for peace. America wants to destroy Iraq... We appeal to all women and people everywhere to end this war now by accepting the Soviet peace proposals."

Five minutes before the deadline expired news arrived that Iraq had launched yet another missile on Israel. As many of the women yodded in jubilation, one passer by said: "Tell Bush this war is not over yet."

## Al Tahrir widens Arab struggle

By Seada Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The only way to achieve victory for the Arab and Muslim nations is to open all fronts and move Arab armies to fight Jews in Palestine, the Golan Heights, Lebanon and the "crusaders" in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, a seminar sponsored by Al Tahrir (Liberation) Islamic Party concluded.

In a six-point memorandum, the participants also called for the cut-off of all political, economic and commercial relations with all countries participating in the aggression on Iraq. The memorandum also called on all Arab and Islamic countries to boycott the United Nations and its Security Council and their resolutions. It also called for the liquidation

of the interests of all countries participating in the war against Iraq, the unification of all countries with Iraq, demanding Iraq, Libya and Algeria to stop all supply to all U.S.-led alliance countries.

The conference, which was held Wednesday upon the invitation of Islamic Liberation Party (Al Tahrir), was attended by several Islamic delegations and groups as well as deputies in the Lower House of Parliament. Among the participants were representatives of the Iraqi embassy in Amman, a delegation of the Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (ISF) headed by Sheikh Ali Alich, and more than 2,000 attendees.

Participants stressed essentially the role of the Arab peoples in

supporting Iraq by exerting pressure on their leaders and their governments to go for Jihad. Bahjat Abu Gharib of the Democratic National Alliance proposed, in addition to Jihad, to attack all United States' and its allies' interests, cutting off any supplies by closing roads, and considering the 17th of every month as a day of demonstration, prayers and sit-ins for Iraq.

Ali Alich, ISF representative, pointed to the Algerian people's sympathetic sentiments and suffering with the Arab and Islamic peoples in this decisive war. He also stressed that there were more than one million volunteers in Algeria ready to fight and stand with Iraq.

Leith Shbeihat, a deputy in the Lower House of Parliament, in-

sisted upon the importance of our role and the duty on us to mobilise the Egyptian street, and to put pressure on the Libyan government to stop supplying oil, and on Iran for its neutral position and for supplying oil for France, the biggest ally of America. He also criticised several governments' positions in this war and called for the need to carry out provocative measures to force Israel to enter the war.

Most of the participants have stressed that time has come to act and not only to talk and hold conferences. In all their speeches, attendees' enthusiasm echoed throughout the Naharayeh hall where they chanted several Islamic slogans, interrupting lecturers from time to time by crying "Allahu Akbar."

Leith Shbeihat, a deputy in the Lower House of Parliament, in-

## Committee makes first contribution to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Popular Committee for Supporting the Iraqi People in the Face of Foreign Aggression Saturday presented the government with a cheque for JD 10,000 as the first installment of contribution to the Iraqi people.

The cheque was handed to Minister Mudar Badran in his office by Mr. Amin Shuaib, committee's secretary general and committee members.

The prime minister voiced the government's appreciation to the committee for its contribution and for its continued efforts to raise funds that would alleviate

the sufferings of the Iraqi people. Shuaib said that his committee's efforts were augmenting those of other groups and organisations operating in the same field in Jordan to raise funds in a show of solidarity with the Iraqi people.

On Feb. 19, a Palestinian American paid JD 50,000 at an auction for a metal coin said to be part of a U.S. missile recovered from Iraq after an allied attack and the sum was intended to purchase badly needed medicines for the Iraqi people.

The auction organisers in Amman claimed the coin was part of

a Tomahawk cruise missile recovered after an attack on Jordanian oil tanker trucks inside Iraq. The auction was the second staged in Amman for pieces of allied warplanes or rocket missiles captured in Iraq since the start of the massive multinational air raids on Jan. 17.

Part of the wing of a downed U.S. warplane was sold in another auction earlier this month for JD 21,500. The money was said to be supporting national efforts to provide medicine and food for the Iraqi people especially children.

The Popular Committee for

Supporting Iraq is reported to be continuing its mission, with teams knocking on doors and approaching people on the street for donations. Local communities in villages and towns around the Kingdom were also holding bazaars and selling different products with the proceeds benefiting the victims of the allied air raids in Iraq.

A soccer match between Al Faisali and Wihdat clubs was organised at the Amman stadium Friday resulting in the latter's defeat by four goals to nil. The proceeds of the game, which amounted to nearly JD 7,000, will also benefit the Iraqi people.

The poll, the fourth in a series of surveys to determine Jordanian people's views about various issues covered 200 people picked randomly from various sectors in Jordan. Questionnaires distributed asked the public to give views about the Gulf conflict, its reasons and expectations about the consequences.

Ash Press said that 96 per cent of those asked to give their views believed that the U.S. allied coalition gives little attention to Kuwait itself and that the coalition was intent only on destroying Iraq's capabilities and preventing the emergence of Arab unity.

These, they said, are the main reasons for launching war on Iraq.

At least 95 per cent said they believed the Western media continues to mislead world public opinion by giving false promises to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict once the Gulf war ends. They said that the West, which created Israel and nurtured the Jewish state, could by no means convince the Arab Nation of its intention to settle the Palestine question.

The poll also reflected the change of views, with regard to major nations of the world.

Before the Gulf conflict, 50 per cent of the public looked up to Japan with respect, declining to 20 per cent after Tokyo decided to support the coalition in the war, while the Soviet Union maintained the same respect among Jordanians as before.

With regard to France, its involvement in the war prompted 63 per cent of the Jordanian people to change their views about it and most Jordanians now regard France as an enemy of the Arab Nation.

All those participating in the poll maintained their position with regard to the United States and Britain, both of which enjoy little respect, because they are regarded here as hostile nations before and after the involvement in the war against Iraq and because of their continued support for Israel, which maintains its occupation of Arab land.

The poll showed that the majority of the Jordanian people were not affected by the influence of the Western media and propaganda campaigns during the Gulf war crisis and that members of the public in Jordan proved difficult to deceive; and that the Jordanians are firmly behind the Iraqi people regardless of sacrifices.

By Feb. 20, confirmed pledges towards IOM's financial requirements under the consolidated plan of action have reached nearly \$11.5 million of which \$8,613,500 was received, the statement noted.

## IOM outlines activities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Saturday issued a press release outlining a regional humanitarian plan of action between Feb. 14 and 20, 1990, and reporting that it had arranged for the repatriation of 3,169 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait arriving in Jordan and neighbouring areas of Iraq.

According to the statement, the evacuees repatriated during this period included Sudanese, Egyptians, Vietnamese, Yemenis and Indians. In all, the IOM said it has to date repatriated 18,000 persons principally from Iran, Jordan and Syria.

From Jordan, 1,379 persons returned to their countries of origin during the reported period under IOM-facilitated arrangements, bringing the total of such departures since Jan. 18 to 15,710, the statement noted. It said that IOM's continued regular departures have kept pace with arrivals, thus greatly reducing the population awaiting repatriation.

By Feb. 20, confirmed pledges towards IOM's financial requirements under the consolidated plan of action have reached nearly \$11.5 million of which \$8,613,500 was received, the statement noted.

## CONDOLENCES

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing in Germany last week of Gunther Heun

Uncle of their colleague and friend Mariam Shahin, and brother of Dr. and Mrs. Majdi Shahin. May his soul rest in peace

## Green spokesman outlines resistance

## Lawzi, Arabyat explain Jordan stand to French, German parliamentarians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein is strongly opposed to war and aggression of any form; and the Kingdom continues to work for the establishment of a just and honourable peace which can guarantee stability, security and freedom for all countries in the region, according to Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi.

He told the group that more than 1.5 million Palestinians were facing increasing arbitrary actions which were making their life impossible under occupation.

A spokesman for the visiting group told Lawzi that Bonn was facing intensive pressure from the United States to force Germany to participate in the coalition arrayed against Iraq.

The Americans are constantly reminding the Germans of their aid after World War II in the face of the so-called Soviet expansionist designs, but the Green Party along with other German groups are resisting all American pressure, he said.

The Green Party has been holding intensive contacts with all groups to fight off the American pressure and has maintained contacts with the military to demand that they refuse orders to go to the Gulf, the group's spokesman said at the meeting which was attended by several House members.

Later at a meeting with Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabyat, the spokesman repeated the Green Party position and said that its members had been instrumental in organising anti-war demonstrations in German cities.

What the Americans and their allies are doing in the Gulf now, be said, is a war of genocide

against the Iraqi people, and a crime for the destruction of Iraq.

He said this was bound to deepen hatred among nations for years to come.

Referring to the situation in the occupied territories, the spokesman said that the Green Party could not accept continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The stability in the region, he said, could only come through the settlement of all the region's problems.

Arabyat echoed Lawzi's call for the need to end the Gulf war by peaceful means.

He voiced the Jordanian people's appreciation of the German people's stand and hoped that Germany's policy towards the region could be copied by other European nations so that the foundations of real peace in the region could be established.

Lawzi and Arabyat also held separate meetings with visiting French parliamentarians, urging them to help change their government's present stance vis-a-vis the Gulf war and helping the world to have peace.

The war in the Gulf constitutes one of the most dangerous moments in the region's history,

because it is a devastating and unjust war designed to destroy the Iraqi people. Iraq's military and economic infrastructure and cultural heritage, said Lawzi at

the meeting attended by House members.

In the light of the Franco-Arab relations and unique relations between the French and Arab people, we feel that France is the Arab World's partner in the peace-making process to end the suffering of mankind resulting from this war, and Jordan hopes that France would play a leading role conforming to the principles of the great French revolution.

For his part, Arabyat told the delegation which represents the French National Assembly that Jordan hoped that France would revise its present position and work towards achieving peace and security based on justice.

What is taking place in the Gulf is destruction and killing, and this by no means reflect the international legality, Arabyat noted.

"While Iraq announced its acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 660 to end the war, President Bush and the Israeli prime minister announced their rejection of the Soviet proposals and declared their intention of destroying Iraq," said Arabyat.

He urged France to reexamine its present position and to support just peace.

The speeches were followed by dialogues in which members of the two Houses participated.

## Industrial investments stalled

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) says that it has received no application from any Arab or foreign sources to start new businesses at the industrial city of Sabah or at the Irbid industrial city since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis last August.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted corporation officials as saying that the JIEC has not even received any requests for information concerning the facilities and privileges offered to investors and industrialists in the Kingdom over the past six months.

It is hard to conduct an exact estimate of the losses inflicted on the Jordanian industry which has been counting on exports to Gulf countries and Iraq which no longer import any of the Jordanian products.

They said that the Gulf war has made things even worse for the Jordanian industry which has been counting on exports to Gulf countries and Iraq which no longer import any of the Jordanian products.

The JIEC officials said that the high cost of production, resulting from insurance surcharges im-

posed by shipping companies, harassment of cargo vessels heading for Aqaba, the high cost of primary materials needed for industrial processes and difficulties facing the transit trade between Jordan and Arab states, have all contributed to this state of affairs in the Kingdom.

Indeed, factories which have been organising three shifts for their workers have now dropped to two or one, a situation which called for the reduction of the number of workers in general, the officials said.

Petra quoted businessmen and industrialists as saying that they were willing to contribute towards bolstering the national economy and were careful not to aggravate the unemployment problem and therefore they have asked their employees to take their annual leaves or leave without pay for the time being until matters clear up.

However, they say that other firms had to lay off workers because business was too bad to keep any of them.

Difficulties facing industries have naturally prompted investors from Jordan and abroad to refrain from undertaking any

## Environmental awareness to become focus in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The new school curricula and textbooks at Jordanian schools focus children's attention on the need for the protection of the environment,

because the Ministry of Education realises the important role of instilling in the minds of the new generation environmental education that would benefit the future of the Kingdom and the world at large, according to Ministry of Education Secretary-General Munther Al Masri.

Environmental education can be traced in textbooks dealing with science, social studies and civics at government and private schools, Masri said in an address at the opening of a five-day symposium on environmental education.

The whole world is giving due attention to the problems of the environment and directing attention towards preventing pollution to the soil, water and the atmosphere to ensure continued survival for mankind, Masri noted.

With regard to France, its involvement in the war prompted 63 per cent of the Jordanian people to change their views about it and most Jordanians now regard France as an enemy of the Arab Nation.

All those participating in the poll maintained their position with regard to the United States and Britain, both of which enjoy little respect, because they are regarded here as hostile nations before and after the involvement in the war against Iraq and because of their continued support for Israel, which maintains its occupation of Arab land.

The poll showed that the majority of the Jordanian people were not affected by the influence of the Western media and propaganda campaigns during the Gulf war crisis and that members of the public in Jordan proved difficult to deceive; and that the Jordanians are firmly behind the Iraqi people regardless of sacrifices.

Jordan's participation in numerous international conferences and His Majesty King Hussein's sustained policies and directives towards protecting the environment in Jordan and the King's warnings of the danger of pollution to the atmosphere as a result of the Gulf conflict stand out as significant indicators projecting the country's deep concern to safeguard the environment, Masri added.

Last June Jordan was among 56 nations which attended an international conference on protecting the environment which was held in London.

Participating countries pledged to launch close cooperation among themselves to protect the

environment and fight pollution.

The Director of the Ministry of Education's Curricula Department, Ahmad Hiyasat spoke at the outset of the opening session, outlining the symposium's objectives and noting that the participants would focus attention on Jordan's environment in terms of problems and solutions, as well as the adoption of a national strategy on environmental education for Jordan.

Hiyasat voiced the ministry's satisfaction with the level of cooperation between the private and public sectors in helping to stave off the dangers of pollution, and noted that the ministry's curricula and textbooks are sound to play a major role in this field by educating students in environmental awareness.

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## Limits of beastly war

PRESIDENT GEORGE Bush's ultimatum to Iraq to pull out on humiliating terms is nothing but an obstinate move aimed to abort Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's peace initiative. If Washington's true objective is to intimidate Iraq into submission, then all the blood and destruction that would ensue from such a policy will have to be the responsibility of the U.S. and its allies. The tone and contents of Bush's ultimatum are drafted in such a way as to leave Iraq no choice but to continue to defend itself against the allied aggression. And with Washington's aims so clearly going beyond the liberation of Kuwait, it is up to the Soviet Union and all free, peace-loving nations to stand up to this Western design with equal determination. Moscow and the Soviet president can ill-afford such humiliation at the hands of Washington and President Bush. What at stake here is not only Iraq but also the so-called new international order which appears now to be totally at the mercy of Washington's White House. Iraq is, and remains, to be a Third World country that cannot be expected to stand up to Western tyranny. If Iraq is allowed to succumb to such a tyranny with Moscow and Peking and other powerful capitals simply gazing with indifference into the sky, then they could be next on the West's list of countries that need to behave or otherwise face the consequences. Now is therefore the time to put an end to this rule of the jungle where the strong and the warmongers call the shots and the others must bow with disgrace and humiliation.

Unfortunately, neither the Arab countries opposed to the Gulf war nor the non-Western capitals are making their voices heard strongly enough. In the face of this deterioration in the international order, all concerned countries, especially the Soviet Union, must stick to their guns at the U.N. Security Council to pre-empt and resist the whims and dictates of Washington. Above all it is incumbent on the Soviets to back their words and agreements with deeds and actions that can put an end to this beastly war immediately. The Soviet Union cannot possibly afford to relinquish its role as an honest brother and arbiter on behalf of the Third World countries, especially at this hour and in view of the massive effort that it has already exerted on behalf of peace in the Gulf.

Meanwhile, Iraq has no alternative but to persevere and defend itself at whatever cost. We know from experience that Iraq will not capitulate. It has accepted terms for honourable peace and will continue to adhere to its word, regardless of the odds. For their serious endeavours and huge sacrifices to save for the Arabs their dignity and integrity, the Iraqis can only be respected and supported without limits. This is a crucial hour for the whole world, especially Arabs, to realise what is at stake here.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily said in an editorial Saturday that both King Hussein who advocated a peaceful settlement at the outset of the Gulf crisis in August and the Iraqi President who has now accepted the Soviet proposals for peace are clearly oriented towards a peaceful settlement. The King summoned the heads of Arab diplomatic missions in Amman to urge them to unify their efforts to help reach a peaceful settlement and retain pan-Arab solidarity, while the Iraqi president sent his foreign minister to Moscow to announce Baghdad's acceptance of the peace proposals for ending the war, the paper noted. To counter all these peace bids, U.S. President George Bush has declared new threats against Iraq and announced his humiliating demands which he imposed on the Iraqi leadership, hoping to achieve an Iraqi capitulation, the paper pointed out. It said that by issuing his ultimatum to Baghdad, Bush is clearly trying to abort the Soviet peace proposal and to foil the Jordanian and Iraqi peace efforts. What is more, the American president has proved that his war on Iraq was not, as he had claimed, designed to evict the occupying forces but rather to destroy Iraq and the Iraqi military might, the paper said. This is clear, said the paper, because Bush's adamant position is being backed by Israel whose prime minister has been urging the U.S. administration to annihilate Iraq's military machinery and oust Saddam Hussein from power so that the Jewish state's well-being can be safeguarded.

A columnist in Al Ra'i's daily calls on the government to demand that foreign trucks passing through Jordanian territory should pay in foreign currency the JD 40 toll imposed on each vehicle passing in transit in accordance with the latest government rule. Nazib says that the government's rule also imposed further charges on extra diesel oil exceeding 200 litres consumed by these vehicles passing through Jordan, and these too should be paid in hard currency. The non-Jordanian refrigerator trucks and other vehicles which pass through Jordan have always enjoyed the facilities offered by the local authorities including the purchases of fuel which has been subsidised by the government; and therefore it is only fair now to demand that these vehicles pay charges in hard currency which Jordan uses to purchase the fuel from abroad. The writer notes that under the present difficult circumstances and in view of the fact that Jordan is finding it increasingly difficult to buy oil products, charging the foreign trucks fees in hard currency is justified.

## Letter from Baghdad

By Shamil Kubba

IRAQ has become a massive killing field. From the very start of the war, the anti-Iraqi coalition has indiscriminately showered Iraqi cities with nearly everything in its lethal arsenal bar nuclear weapons. The seemingly deliberate targeting by "precision-guided munitions" of innocent civilians and non-military structures such as homes, bridges, bomb shelters, churches, mosques, museums and government buildings (under the guise of "collateral damage"), is deplorable and contravenes all recognised international norms and laws.

Yet news of the way the Iraqi people are coping with this tragedy and the effect on the nation's morale, has been almost non-existent. People of all nationalities, living in Jordan and other parts of the world, who have family, relatives and friends in Iraq, wait anxiously, hoping for even the smallest bit of information to filter out. With the telecommunications system down, oo telephones, telex, fax or general mail has been able to get through. Many of the families in Jordan have been receiving desperate phone calls from relatives and friends all over the world, asking for news of people they know back in Iraq.

Some fortunate families have been able to partially overcome this owing "blackout" of their loved ones, by offering cash inducements to truck or bus drivers willing to risk their lives, journeying the Amman-Baghdad road to take messages, food and other essentials. Others have not been so lucky. Below are excerpts from a letter by an Iraqi housewife and mother of three, living in the Moosour District of Baghdad, and written to relatives residing in Amman, Jordan. The document is dated Feb. 13, the same day that American planes savagely "precision bombed" the Amia bomb shelter with the resultant death of well over 300 innocent men, women and children. The letter is interesting.

Only two leaders have previously been able to destroy this great nation: one was Holako, and the other is the vile Bush. History may forgive Holako because he was known to be illiterate barbarian and a pagan and thus totally uncivilised. They bombard our nation's national heritage daily with incredible enmity and hatred. And yet in the midst of this blitz, an unjust world lauds and pathetically looks on in a conspiracy of silence to witness the most barbarous massacre in centuries.

Dear God, where is your justice, and where is this so called "civilised world"?

Each day, the heart is filled with hatred and abhorrence at the atrocities of these despicable criminals, who try to coerce us into submission. I include Arab traitors in this category, such as the tyrant leaders of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria. The horror and pain our country is being subjected to, tempts me to dislike all Arabs because instead of supporting us, they look on like feeble spectators.

But what will the world and history have to say of the despicable President Bush who boasts of being civilised and who is head of the most powerful and advanced country in the world? He has the audacity to preach democracy, human rights, justice and honour and claim to be a supporter of the wronged and the aggrieved.

Bush tells an unsuspecting world that he came to liberate Kuwait, but where is Kuwait in relation to Baghdad or Mosul or Ramadi (which are located hundreds of kilometres from Kuwait)? What is the connection between civilian bridges in these cities which are being pounded daily, to the liberation of Kuwait? Also, what relevance is the liberation of Kuwait to the women and children that are dying daily (from allied bombardment) under the rubble of their own houses? Where is the connection between liberating Kuwait and the killing of innocent men and women obtaining water from the Tigris River — by cluster bombs, which are blatant violations of international law. And what does one say to the innocent children who are disfigured and maimed by pens, balls, and toys dropped from allied planes and which are designed to explode in their face when picked up or touched? What has the liberation of Kuwait to do with the poor civilians that are burned alive in their vehicles as they try to escape from the bombs that are showered upon them?

In conclusion the Iraqi housewife and mother tells her relatives,

"Please feel assured that we are all right. We are able to take care of ourselves with help of God who watches over us during these terrible times. We are quickly adapting to our conditions in spite of the many difficulties we are faced with. One of the few benefits of this war is the strengthening of personal ties and return to simple life and nature — now we ride bicycles and walk which is healthy and good. Also, life in the shelter is reasonably comfortable because it has a generator which works for six hours every evening and we pass the time playing cards, backgammon and watching video films."

In conclusion the Iraqi housewife and mother tells her relatives,

"Do not worry for us, for no harm shall befall us, except that which is willed by Allah. And we shall meet again soon, even though it sometimes seems that we may never meet again. Love..."

In footnote, she adds,

"Please don't send letters with the driver for delivery to others as it is very difficult to relay them at present due to the absence of telephones, petrol, etc."

## Why Arabs failed to unite

By Khalid Nusseibeh

IT is germane to venture the question as to why divisions in the Arab World are rife when it enjoys a degree of cultural consensus rooted in religion, common historical experience and language, and racial affinity — admixed to the point of envy by other societies. The mosaic that exists in the Arab society represented by, for instance, Christian communities in the Levant and Berbers in North Africa exist within the framework of a great deal of homogeneity.

In an interview with Rami Khouri on Jordan Television, a French official visiting Jordan acknowledged the divided boundaries created in the wake of World War I Sykes-Picot treaty between the British and the French but posed the question as to why — as the Europeans are doing — does not the Arab World forge a political unity in conditions of freedom and open discussion. Against the background of the current Arab internece war this is

indeed a difficult question to answer.

Where the tapestry of European history is replete with religious, racial and civil conflict — in the Arab World such sources of dissension are far less. One may recall several universal states, spanning many countries, in the history of the area (Umayyad, Abbasid, Ottoman) which subordinated the forces of division to a larger political entity, and where the mosaic of ethnic and religious configuration was effectively assimilated and absorbed by the universal caliphate state.

Amid the intense feelings generated by the Gulf conflict, sadly, little is said about the aftermath, in terms of inter-Arab relations. The scourge of war includes the wounds that will continue to fester after the fighting is over.

In Arab Islamic history, the early conflict between Imam Ali (the fourth successor of the Prophet Mohammad) and his supporters on one side and Muawiyah on the other was the

cause of much bloodletting that entailed consequences which we continue to live with today. The schism within Islam between Sunnis and Shiites is an instance of such scars. Moreover, one of the obstacles to the assimilation of Persia within the Ottoman state was the existence of Shi'ite Islam.

There is sometimes uncertainty in referring to history to illustrate a modern situation, for one because exact repetition does not exist in history. Still it is clear that the medieval crusades were stimuli for an awakening, in terms of spiritual and moral regeneration as well as political unity. At present, the Western military encroachment and the sentiments among Arabs and Muslims around the world that it is evoking conjures the images of indignation that preceded the liberation of Jerusalem, during the era of Saladin.

One of the positive implications of the Gulf crisis is the vast appearances of solidarity we are witnessing among the people of North Africa to Iraq.

Ironically, it is the Western media in its daily coverage of the Gulf war that is helping to bring forth a surge in Arab and Islamic solidarity. However much the divergences in geography and politics, the psychic unity between the western Arab World and the eastern part is unmistakable.

Undoubtedly, relations between humans and states are characterised by harmony when there is a mutual commitment to a form of justice. When we pose the question as to why Arab unity does not exist — as we must — one has to look for causes such as economic injustice where a minority of oil rich states have control over vast wealth while other far more populated countries are impoverished. As the Arab World deals with the scars left by the current conflict, the imperative of forging a more just economic order where there is distributive justice is a prerequisite to continuing the struggle for building the shattered blocks of Arab unity.

## In U.S. and Iraq, shared disbelief over U.S. war aims

By Bernd Debusmann  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — After more than a month of relentless bombing which has reportedly laid waste to Iraq's infrastructure, Americans and Iraqis have little in common but shared disbelief that the war is about Kuwait.

Officially, the U.S. administration insists it has no intention of going beyond the United Nations resolution which gave a green light to use force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait, seized in a lightning strike on Aug. 2.

When he announced the start of the war on Jan. 16, President George Bush declared that "our goal is not the conquest of Iraq but the liberation of Kuwait."

But since then, "almost all Americans have come to understand that the objective is no longer Kuwait. It is Saddam Hussein," said Rashid Khalidi of Chicago University's Centre for Middle Eastern Studies.

In Iraq, as well, a growing number of people are convinced that the war is meant to destroy the government and President Saddam Hussein, judging from conversations with dozens of people during a recent nine-day visit.

Many educated Iraqis are sceptical of the state-run media and prefer to get their news from foreign radio stations.

But one persistent line of government information analysis is striking a receptive chord: The allies went to war to prevent Iraq from growing into a major military and economic force — and to remove Saddam.

It is an assessment shared by leading U.S. experts on the Middle East.

"Very early on after the bombing began, we (the United States) began using it as an instrument to achieve broader objectives that have nothing to do with Kuwait," said Yahia Sadowski, a Middle East expert at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

"Crippling Iraq's military capability to play a role in the region in the future. Crippling the economic capability to sustain that sort of military role."

Bush himself provided evidence of the changed war aims, Sadowski said, by encouraging Iraq to overthrow Saddam.

On Tuesday, the U.S. president shrouded off a Soviet peace plan reported to provide for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in return for Moscow's commitment to oppose any moves to dismantle the structure of the Iraqi state and "punish" Saddam for the war.

Bush said the Soviet plan, worked out as preparations for an allied ground offensive gathered pace, fell short of U.S. requirements. "The goals have been set out ... I'm not going to give," he said.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

Some experts say that turning Saddam's removal into the undeclared but widely-understood objective of the Gulf war makes it easier to pursue a conflict which otherwise might have sparked popular opposition.

According to the latest public opinion poll, 78 per cent of Americans approve of the U.S. having gone to war.

According to Sadowski, painting the Gulf conflict as a war against evil represented by Saddam is a technique with a proven track record in the United States, "a country which is very dubious about the strategic rationale of U.S. intervention in the Third World."

"Bush did the same with (General Manuel Antonio) Noriega in Panama," Sadowski said. "We weren't at war with Panama, we were at war with Noriega."

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Peace prospects rekindle hopes for economic recovery

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

JORDAN'S economy was not at its best before the Gulf crisis. It was undergoing a tough adjustment programme, supervised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The standard of living was already 40 per cent below the level of 1987 and unemployment ranged between 16 to 20 per cent of the labour force and new investments were at standstill.

During the first five months of the crisis before the shooting war, Jordan suffered a lot. Only the Kuwaiti economy suffered more. In one strike Jordan lost all the Arab aid that was flowing at the rate of \$400 to \$600 million a year, half of the expatriates' remittances and one third of its export market. Internally, the major victims were the sectors of tourism, transport, external trade and agriculture.

In other words, most of the possible losses under war have actually taken place before the war.

Two major risks were always under consideration: Israeli intervention and interruption of oil supplies from Iraq. After two weeks of active war, the risk of the Israeli aggression subsided. If Israel is not allowed to retaliate to painful Iraqi strikes at the heart of its capital, more likely it will not be allowed to initiate an aggression against Jordan. The Arab coverage provided by the continued Syrian and Egyptian participation in the coalition against Iraq is more valuable to America than Israeli direct assistance in the war efforts.

The flow of Iraqi oil to Jordan continued under war conditions for two weeks but at a lower level. In the last two days of January, American fighters struck against Jordanian oil tankers without warning. They killed 14 drivers and injured 30.

On second thought, America expressed regret for the incident and the tanker resumed its activity. This time, the American fighters did not only hit the Jordanian tankers but also struck against the loading facilities in Iraq to render Jordanian importation of Iraqi oil impossible.

Due to the lack of storage facilities Jordan does not maintain large oil reserves and civilian needs are covered for around three weeks of normal consumption. Jordan is dependent on oil for 99 per cent of all its energy needs.

The third risk that Jordan is subjected to is its transportation with the outside world. Since the war erupted, air transport was curtailed. All Arab and foreign airlines suspended their services to Amman airport. The Royal Jordanian continued to operate around three flights a day to secure a minimum connection to the outside world through Vienna, Larnaca and Cairo. Sea transport was also severely curtailed. The freight and insurance charges became prohibitive. This was not affecting imports only, it was also affecting exports of phosphate, potash, cement and fertilizers, which are the main foreign exchange earners.

The Iraqi acceptance of the Soviet peace plan revived hopes that peace may be restored at an early stage and that the war will be halted. Should that happen, the Jordanian economy will be in a position to bounce back almost immediately. All the production factors are intact although they are now underutilised.

National psyches are not exempt of such mutations. Japan endured waves of hara kiri, elsewhere known as suicide, after her defeat in World War II, but recovered nicely because of the strong Japanese belief in themselves and their unwavering loyalty to the emperor, the symbol of the Japanese spirit. The Argentine, on the other hand, never quite survived Peron or the Falkland defeat. Brazilians habitually go through national trauma each time they lose the World Cup. And according to a maverick historian I know, the English were never the same after that idiocy charge by the Light Brigade.

Jordan passed through its own emotional cycles as well. The country suffered a binge of self-satisfied complacency in the late seventies before the cumulative sins of fiscal profligacy and economic mismanagement wiped off that smug smile from our faces in 1988. Then, just as the country was resurfacing into the brightness of well-being, the whole of the Arab World entered a new danger zone of cataclysmic nature.

Jordan's very survival now hinges not on any externalities but upon the inner strengths and moral cohesion of the people. They must close ranks and keep their spirit high, unfettered by the ominous din of war, and undeterred by calamities and pain. The time has come for the nation to turn its collective gaze inward and begin to count its blessings: a benevolent and sage monarch of noble Hashemite lineage; a fledgling parliamentary democracy that offers more freedom of expression than is allowed American dissenters of Arab ancestry; and a proud people who have always kept the faith and shared their last loaf of bread with their brethren.

Normally, I am not given to maudlin sentiments,

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## Why we lost the media war

To the Editor:

IT TOOK Israel about five minutes to change its image from an aggressor to a victim in the on-going Gulf war. How did Israel do it? It is very easy, and convenient, for us to say that Zionists control the western media and that the western media are naturally biased against the Arabs. These so-called reasons are nothing but a coverup for our own failure to reach the western media, and through it, the western masses. The time has come for us to stop using Zionist organisations, western bias, and the Jewish lobby in the U.S. as scapegoats for our failures.

The reasons for our inability to reach the western masses on our own, or through the western media are not entirely external. We have been losing the media war because we were never ready to fight it and, as it seems, we do not even know how to fight it.

It seems that our media people do not know how to deal with the western media. They do not understand that there are differences between the local audience and the western audience; therefore we should have a different media policy for each audience. On the other hand, we cannot react to the western media as we react towards our own media. By dealing with the western media, and the people in the West, like we deal with our own media and people, we committed a very grave mistake. This mistake is costing us a lot.

There are hundreds of foreign reporters here in Jordan. What have we done to take advantage of this huge media presence? Not only did we not take advantage of this opportunity but we also managed to turn this presence against our goals of showing a true and honest picture of what is going on in this part of the world.

Let me give a small example of our inability to deal with the western media. The night when the foreign minister announced that our tankers and civilian cars were hit by the U.S. allied forces, every reporter in Jordan was trying to get some more information about this aggression against civilian targets. What did we do to provide this information? Nothing. The same night, all the information that was available was what we saw on the local news. And although the local news are good for the local consumption, it is not appropriate for western, and foreign, audience. What would have happened if the same thing happened in Israel. The Israelis, I am sure, would have had an immediate press conference and invited all the press that was available to this conference. Some of the victims would be also present with the impact of their terrible experience still apparent. The Israelis would also provide a government spokesman that knows at least two languages. The whole world, in that case would be watching what the government of Israel wanted to show. In our case, the media had to wait for the next day to get any kind of information. There was a press conference in the Al Hussein Medical City. This conference was more damaging than helpful. The media was told they would be allowed to see one of the victims. The person that they saw was injured eight days before the tanker's incident and was an Iraqi soldier. He had a human and touching story to tell but why couldn't we show the world the story of this innocent victim before? By the time the press got to it, it was old news. No western reporter, in her/his right mind, will share a story that is at least a week old with her/his audience. The press was in the hospital to see the victims of the tankers bombing. They were shown none. Many of them left the hospital with the impression that there were no injured, nor dead, civilians. This impression, I am sure, reached these reporters' audience.

The media is as important as the military in these days. We cannot ignore the impact of the media. We have to understand its importance and we have to know how to deal with it in a way that will benefit us and present a true and honest picture to what is going on. The road towards this goal is long and difficult, but we have no choice but to take it because it may mean the difference in the outcome of our struggle.

Mustafa Tell,  
Amman.

## Not a banana republic

To the Editor:

The fierce steadfastness that Iraq has been conducting in the past month against the courageous bombardment of Iraqi cities seems to be driving the American commander-in-chief crazy. People monitoring American President George Bush's statements and decisions believe that he feels personally humiliated by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi people in their ability to wear out the U.S.-aligned super forces.

Actually, President Bush felt humiliated from the beginning of the crisis soon after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait last August, but the humiliation grew as President Saddam continued to resist American and Western pressure to withdraw from Kuwait even after war broke out.

Now, over one month into the extremely heavy bombardment of Iraqi cities, Mr. Saddam said he would give up Kuwait, but still insisted on linking the Palestinian problem and other regional issues equally. The Iraqi president's consistency in these demands seems to be making Mr. Bush very uneasy, calling it a "cruel hoax."

Earlier in the war, the American president explicitly stated that he would accept nothing less than an unconditional surrender from Iraq. One would think that all of Mr. Bush's experts would have known and told him that Mr. Saddam is not a man to surrender, and has absolutely no problem with dying a martyr.

## LETTERS

### I would not have believed it

To the Editor:

When anyone asks me why I am protesting against the war in the Gulf, I reply that I would only undertake deadly, or potentially deadly, force against someone if he or she directly and clearly threatened my life. Consequently, I would not undertake deadly force against anyone in any other circumstances, and I consider the undertaking of force in any non-life threatening circumstances murder. I resent, I abhor, I loathe, I deeply, deeply, detest and hate the killing that George Bush is undertaking in my name as an American. I feel completely powerless to alter the great wrongs that are being done to the Iraqi people. I feel as though many Iraqis must consider me a murderer. I wish I could explain how I feel. Let me try.

The similarities between the behaviour of the Bush administration and the Hitler's Third Reich, more than 50 years ago, are striking. Bush used a conspiracy theory to galvanise national sentiment against the Iraqis, much as Hitler used a similar groundless conspiracy theory against the Jews to unite the gentle German people; Hitler committed genocide against the Jews, and we will see the unfortunate results of Bush's "kinder and gentler" carpet bombing: tens of thousands of Iraqis dead. We see other parallels between the Third Reich and the Bush administration: the displays of nationalistic, flag-waving, almost militant patriotism; the forging of unnatural and convenient (some might say immoral) international alliances; control of the press; and last, the nauseating scapegoating of a people by a country whose people are tired of hearing bad news about their own declining economic strength. The duped American people are only too willing to listen to Bush and the Pentagon talk about American strength, even if it is only the bloody and ephemeral military kind.

There is disturbing, although circumstantial, evidence, moreover, to suggest that the whole conflict between Kuwait and Iraq was encouraged by the CIA. I refer to an article in the Jan. 7, 1991 New Yorker. (See pages 42-45). This article also implies that incipient, potentially successful peace initiatives were thwarted by the Bush administration.

Any actions of retaliation by Saddam Hussein, including the attacks on civilians in Tel Aviv and Riyadh, can be blamed squarely on the Bush administration, therefore, and its brutal racist, anti-Arab policy in the Gulf. Why shouldn't an Arab power have major industry, he allowed "a place at the political table" with the Judeo-Christian powers, and be accorded respect and consideration? If there is no need for Saddam Hussein, or anyone else, to attack us, why should he?

I am not an Arab by birth, but today my heart is with all oppressed Arabs. I would not believe this criminal, insane war to be of America if I had not seen it with my own eyes.

Cassie Moher,  
Chicago, Illinois,  
USA.

## Friends

To the Editor:

I hear reports of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations are deteriorating. I would like you and your readership to know how I feel as a German who has established good relations with your people when I was in Jordan.

Dear Jordanians,

In the years between 1980-1982 I lived among you in Jordan and those years have remained in my memory as the best part of my life. But thinking of you and places I know in Jordan makes me sad. I am saddened not only because of the war in the region and its repercussions on human existence and the environment but also because a small number of German citizens are responsible for the possible vast destruction of the Middle East by selling arms and providing military technology.

As a 20-year-old student of civil engineering I would like to let you know that our younger generation is begging for peace and more individual responsibility towards attaining it. German history was marked by dreadful events during the past 100 years. Nevertheless, the recent peaceful German unity can be an example of attaining objectives in a non-violent manner.

I have always been very grateful for the friendliness of Jordanians. I do not know whether the German government knows of its responsibility, but I hope I will be able to visit Jerusalem as well as Baghdad when they become peaceful cities hopefully soon.

May peace be with us.

Ingo Deward-Werner,  
Germany.

## Western democracies'

To the Editor:

THE tripod on which the American president based his decision to shoot it out in the Gulf, namely: the Zionist lobby, the interests of oil companies and the interests of the arms manufacturers, coupled with self images of false grandeur, just like his predecessor, for when he made his decision, he must have foreseen the situation as Armageddon being made and that HE is at the helm, not to mention a host of domestic problems, personal and otherwise, that by themselves would have him to grab the opportunity to diversify the attention elsewhere; all these reasons make it very clear to us that this CRUSADE against the Arabs and Muslims with the aim of keeping us on our knees and the continuation of exploiting our riches and resources. It has nothing to do with reinstating democracy in Kuwait, because what had not been there in the first place could never be reinstated.

Armageddon it may be, but a fight between good and evil it is. And good is never motivated by purely selfish, unscrupulous and evil designs that call for the control of others and deciding their destiny, nor it is "Arabs and Muslims must bear the responsibility for the recession in your economy, your high inflation rates and taking the blame for high unemployment figures." And surely good is not to make us pay for the atrocities committed by the Nazis, communists and other European democracies against the Jews; who with the help and protection of the same old tyrants are committing worse actions against the Arabs and Muslims all over the Middle East.

Your politicians and media project the Iraqi president as a dictator, motivated by selfish reasons. I am not going to defend him, as I do not think he needs to be defended, I will just ask you to compare him to a president who bribed and coerced twenty seven countries, twenty six you exclude Britain, which is obviously after getting revenge from both the Americans and the Arabs for its failures in Iran and Egypt during the fifties, into fighting his own battle with him, when surely he did not need them, but how else could he have cladded his evil designs with legitimacy. A president who refused to acknowledge the responsibility of his country towards the turmoil in the Middle East and thus accept to allow for the convening of an international conference to solve the problems in this part of the world once and for all, under the pretext of "not rewarding an aggressor" as he put; but he rather accepted to sacrifice the blood of his fellow compatriots for his false pride, or was it to make the Middle East safe for the Zionist state. A

president who accused the president of Iraq of systematic destruction of Kuwait, but when he realised that his aggressor is not getting him to where he wants he took it upon himself to systematically destroy Iraq, its infrastructure and its civilization. A president who realised that his military might has failed to destroy the military means of Iraq, so he turns to bombing the Iraqi civilians and massacring them in the hope that it will turn them against their leadership. A president who praises courage but the only courageous act be is known to have taken is standing in front of TV cameras and lying with a straight face about his real motives behind sending his soldiers to the Middle East and lying about the bombing of civilians and civilian targets in the aftermath. A president who succeeded in making tyrants like Hitler and Nero turn in their graves with jealousy. Now who befits the title "dictator"? That is for you to contemplate over.

Armageddon it is! But we prefer to call it "the mother of all battles." When it is over the White House shall be clad in black, for it has harboured evil quite a long time. George "the butcher" Bush will realise that he miscalculated, he will find out the hard way that what he is doing to Iraq and the Iraqi people will not turn them against their leadership, that to the contrary it gave them the proof to his diabolical designs. He will find out that the history he was made to read about the Arabs and their heritage is false, because had he read their true history first, then he would have realised that throughout the history of mankind many tyrants had committed the mistake of trying to destroy the civilisation in this part of the world, and not only did they fail but they paid heavily for their blunders, just as is bound to happen to him this time as well. The Western allies shall discover how grave a mistake they have committed, that in addition to the huge losses they are destined to sustain, they will end up with a "camel's complex." For your benefit a camel's complex stems out of the fact that camel caravans travelling in the deserts form a single line of camels, each of which has its reins tied to the tail of a donkey. It seems the camels do not mind the hardships of the desert, it is being led by a donkey that gives them a complex.

War is not a joke neither is dying in a war, but it sure beats the bell out of living as the underdog.

Aziz Abu Rumman,  
P.O. Box 140,  
Swieq,  
Jordan

## Suffer the little children

To the Editor:

While our eyes are fixed in shock and horror towards the East on the terrible destruction being wrought on our friends and neighbours the Iraqis; and with a feeling of sickness and despair towards the West because of the terrible hatred that is directed towards all of us as Arabs, a problem which has slowly been creeping up on us for the last two years has been gaining momentum.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recently published the results of a survey it did, to identify the economic effects of the Gulf crisis on the Jordanian family and stated that one third of our country's population is living below the poverty line.

What is the definition of poverty line, you may ask. Well, it has been defined as a family of six to seven people, living on JD 89 per month. When you think of fixed expenses like rent, water, electricity and transportation needed to get to and from work (if work is available) that really doesn't leave much for luxuries like food and medicine! Which brings me to the problem "undernutrition."

There are families in Jordan where the children only have breakfast every other day because there is not enough to go around. A family of 11 people will sit down to a meal of tea, bread, one or two onions and one or two tomatoes. Children are fainting in school because they haven't had breakfast or supper the night before. I wish these stories were something out of a novel about Africa but they are not, nor are they confined to a small, well defined, easily reachable group of people: 18 per cent of our population is below five years of age. Assuming poverty is distributed among children as it is in the population as a whole that means there are 198,000 children below five years who need our help so that malnutrition won't take hold, and so their brains can grow and develop properly. Brain development and growth is most rapid during the first two years of life, a time when proper nutrition is essential. If children miss out on the chance their brains won't get another chance to make up for lost time. There are also 374,000 children between five and 15 years of age, 41,666 pregnant women and about 20,833 lactating women all of whom have heightened nutritional needs which are probably not being met because of economic hardship.

The problem is there and won't go away because we choose not to think about it. We have a wonderful, valuable and highly resourceful institution in Jordan called the Jordanian mother who has so far with every means available to her tried to avert the disaster she can see happening before her eyes. Isn't there something that can be done to help her insure her health, and the health and proper growth and development of our most valuable resource: our children?

Linda Abu Jaber, M.D.,  
Amman.

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**JORDAN MARKET PLACE**

## Marceli wins the mile at U.S. indoor Athletics Championships

NEW YORK (AP) — Nnuredine Morelli, the sensational 20-year-old Algerian, made another serious run at the world indoor mile record, but settled for meet and track marks in winning at the Mobil Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Morelli, running without the aid of a pacesetter, ran four front throughout and was in pace to break Eamonn Coghlan's world record of 3 minutes, 49.78 seconds going into the final quarter-mile.

But without anyone to push him around Madison Square Garden's slow 11-laps-to-the-mile track, Morelli sliwed and finished in 3:52.99, easily breaking the meet mark of 3:54.98 set by Sydney Maree in 1985 and the track record of 3:53.0 set by Coghlan in 1981.

Morelli had a small, but loud cheering section among the crowd of 12,483. When he was introduced, the group chanted his name and held up banners. The chanting continued and was accompanied by hand-clapping when the race began.

Morelli's unofficial times were 58.8 for the first quarter, 1:55.5 at the half-mile and 2:52.9 for three quarters. But the fast early pace finally took its toll on Morelli, winner of all three of his race in the United States this season.

His previous victories were 3:53.50 in the Millrose Games at the Garden on Feb. 1 and 3:50.81, the third-fastest mile ever, in the Meadows Invitational at East Rutherford, New Jersey, on Feb. 8.

Ireland's Marcus O'Sullivan, who trailed Morelli in both those races, again was a distant second, in 3:58.62.

Meanwhile, Lance Deal shattered the world indoor record in the 35-pound (15.9 kilogramme) weight throw and produced the three-longest throws in history, while Diana Dixon won a record 10th national title.

Deal, 29, uncorked his best throw on his sixth and final attempt, reaching 79 feet, 3 1/4 inches (24.17 metres).

That was 9 1/4 inches (23 centimetres) farther than the previous mark of 78-6 1/2 feet (23.9 metres), set by Thre Johnson of Norway at Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Feb. 25, 1984.

The triumph also clinched the overall women's Mobil Grand Prix title for Dixon, 26. She also won the overall Grand Prix in 1986.

In the twoheat final, run on a time basis, Dixon was timed in 52.38 seconds.

In one of the most thrilling races of the championships, Suzy Favor, the 1990 NCAA indoor and outdoor mile champion from Wisconsin and the national outdoor titlholder, took the indoor crown.

Favor staged a gutsy rally in the final stretch to overtake world indoor recordholder Doina Melinte of Romania at the tape.

Favor was timed in 4:37.55 to Melinte's 4:37.59.

Michael Johnson, top-ranked in the world at 200 metres, won his second straight national indoor 400 title in 46.70.

Greg Foster, the world indoor record-holder in the 60-metre hurdles, won his sixth national indoor title in 7.49.

Although he failed to come close to his world mark of 7.36, Foster was in command after overtaking defending champion Tony Dees, who hit the first hurdle.

pion from 1984-86, finished second at 75-8 (23.06 metres). He was followed by Ken Flax at 71-4 (21.74 metres), Jim Driscoll with a personal-best 70-5 1/2 (21.48 metres), and Christophe Ephale of France at 70-1 1/4 (21.44 metres).

Dixon's victory in the women's 100 metres was her ninth in a row and 10th since 1981. It made her the winningest woman in meet history and tied her with race walker Henry Laskau, a winner from 1948-57, for the most victories in meet history.

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Although he failed to come close to his world mark of 7.36, Foster was in command after overtaking defending champion Tony Dees, who hit the first hurdle.

"It felt easy," said Foster, whose other titles came in 1983-85 and 1987-88.

Jack Pierce (7.61) beat two-time Olympic gold medalist Roger Kingdom (7.67) for second place.

Cuba's Andres Simon, the 1989 world indoor champion at 60 metres, ended Andre Cason's four-race winning streak, taking the dash in 6.58.

Cason and Daron Council, the two conquerors of Ben Johnson this season, finished 2-3 in 6.60 and 6.65, respectively.

Michelle Finn won the women's 60 for the second straight year, clocking 7.16, edging defending champion Gwen Torrence, the runner-up in 7.17.

Kim McKenzie, the 1981 Olympic bronze medalist in the women's 100-metre hurdles, won the 60 metre hurdles in 8.12, far ahead of Cuba's Alinka Lopez, the runner-up in 8.21.

Other field event winners included Juliana Yendorf of Walnut, California, high with a national scholastic record of 43-0 1/4 (13.12 metres) in the women's triple jump; Frank Rutherford of the Bahamas in the men's triple jump at 54-8 1/4 (16.67 metres); Carol Lewis in the women's long jump, 21-6 1/4 (6.56 metres); Lewlyn Starks in the men's long jump, 26-4 1/4 (8.04 metres); Ron Backes in the men's shot put, 67-1 1/4 (20.45 metres) and Cinnie Price-Smith in the women's shot put, 61-10 1/4 (18.85 metres).

The first two American finishers in most finals qualified for the U.S. team that will compete in the World Indoor Championships at Seville, Spain, on March 8-10.

## Lendl to play Rostagno for men's indoor title

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — Top-seed Ivan Lendl used a big serve and solid groundstrokes to defeat Australian Darren Cahill, 7-6 6-3 to reach the semifinals of the \$750,000 Men's Indoor Championships.

American Derrick Rostagno, the 11th seed, will face Lendl in Saturday's semifinals. Rostagno defeated 13th-seeded Cristiano Caratti of Italy 6-7 6-2 6-0.

In another quarterfinal match, fifth-seeded Michael Chang defeated unseeded American Jeff Tarango, 6-3 7-5. Tarango, a lucky loser from the qualifying round and ranked 138th, had replaced fourth-seeded Brad Gilbert who withdrew Wednesday.

Defending champion Michael Stich of Germany earned the right to face Michael Chang with a 6-4 6-2 victory over Mark Koevermans of the Netherlands.

Lendl and Cahill fought a close first set. Both players served hard and rallied from the baseline without breaking serve as games reached 6-6 and the tiebreak. Lendl took advantage of a Cahill double-fault in surge ahead 4-1, then unleashed a series of groundstroke winners to take the tiebreak and the tiebreak 7-2.

Another stream of winners from Lendl cost Cahill the break to fall behind 3-1 in the second set and Lendl stayed ahead to take the match 6-3 when Cahill netted a forehand return.

"It was a relief to win in the second set," Chang said after nearly squandering the second set. "Maybe I'm waiting for the other guy to lose it instead of going out there to win it."

Tarango, who upset the previous round, was pleased to have reached the quarterfinals.

"I wanted to definitely seize the opportunity I got," Tarango said. "I felt I should push myself harder to do better."

"I feel half-way through the tiebreak I had the tiebreak under control," Lendl said. "But it doesn't mean you're going to win. Darren is too good a player to give many second chances."

Stich's big serve was too much for Koevermans who reached the quarterfinals when second-seeded Pete Sampras defaulted during their third-round match Thursday.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Since a lot of minor details and some of the larger ones are falling in place at present it may be possible for you to move forward with some larger plan that you might have to wait.

"After the first set, my light just turned out," the Italian said.

Chang and Tarango fought a predominantly baseline battle, forcing each other into making errors. Chang needed a single break in the first set to lead 4-2 and hold onto the advantage, winning the set 6-3.

In the second set, Tarango found his efforts to make winners thwarted by Chang's foot speed and quickly fell behind 2-0. The left-handed Tarango had flown back from California after losing in the Memphis qualifying, when Gilbert withdrew and took advantage of his lucky break.

He forged a brief comeback in the second set 2-2 and broke Chang when the fifth seed, celebrating his 19th birthday that day, failed to serve out the match at 5-4.

But the respite was short-lived as Chang broke again for 6-5, then served out the match 7-5 when Tarango netted a backhand.

"It was a relief to win in the second set," Chang said after nearly squandering the second set. "Maybe I'm waiting for the other guy to lose it instead of going out there to win it."

Tarango, who upset the previous round, was pleased to have reached the quarterfinals.

"I wanted to definitely seize

the opportunity I got," Tarango said. "I felt I should push myself harder to do better."

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## Economy

European Parliament releases \$1b food aid to Soviets

STRASBOURG, France (AP) — The European Parliament Friday released more than \$1 billion in food aid to Soviet Union.

The European Community's 518-seat assembly had suspended the aid package — worth 750 million European Currency Units — last month because of alarm about the Soviet crackdown in the Baltic republics and problems finding money in the EC budget.

In a measure passed in a hand vote, the parliament urged the EC executive commission to ensure the food aid winds up in the hands of the people who need it most.

It added the aid was not for the Moscow government but "the inhabitants of the USSR."

EC officials have worried the central Soviet government might keep the aid away from parts of the population trying to secede from the country.

The parliament also approved \$511 million in EC aid for Czechoslovakia and \$137 million for Romania and Bulgaria.

During a debate Tuesday, parliament members repeated their condemnation of the Soviet crackdown in the Baltics but said it was wrong too use food aid as a political tool.

Leaders of the 12 EC nations approved the Soviet food programme in December, but the aid was suspended after Soviet troops killed 18 pro-secession demonstrators in separate clashes in Riga, Latvia, and Vilnius, Lithuania.

The European Community has also pledged \$1.1 billion over three years for African development projects implemented by the World Bank.

The grant — worth 1 billion European Currency Units — will be used to promote economic reform and improve health and education. In 21 impoverished sub-Saharan African countries, the EC Development Committee said.

The EC is the largest contributor to the World Bank's \$15 billion special programme of assistance for Africa. The 12-nation trade bloc gave \$800 million to the programme's first phase in 1988-1990.

### AMMAN RATES EXCHANGE

Saturday, February 23, 1991  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	660.0	670.0
French Sterling	1295.2	1303.0
Deutschmark	442.3	445.0
Swiss franc	515.1	518.2
French franc	130.0	130.8
Japanese yen (for 100)	32.5	33.0
Dutch guilder	362.3	364.7
Swedish krona	119.5	120.2
Italian lira (for 100)	59.1	59.5
Belgian franc (for 10)	214.9	216.2

## Soviet prime minister to crack down on crooked rouble dealers

MOSCOW (R) — Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov vowed Friday to crack down on crooked currency dealers, whom he accuses of plotting to wreck the Soviet economy and overthrow President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Recently we have seen the emergence of certain groups resembling the Colombian mafia, especially in the black market exchange of the rouble against the dollar," he told a news conference.

The recently appointed prime minister astounded Western bankers and business leaders earlier this month with allegations that they are involved in a conspiracy to flood the country with billions of roubles which had been smuggled abroad.

We are quite alarmed about this... we will put a stop to such things and I believe our foreign business partners should help us in this affair instead of criticising us," Pavlov said, without disclosing what measures would be taken.

Swiss, Austrian, Canadian and other banks implicated by the prime minister said they knew of no such plot and doubted if there were enough roubles held abroad to influence the Soviet economy.

The rouble is a non-convertible currency and exports are illegal, but Pavlov said moves were afoot to exchange vast sums for dollars in the black market. The roubles would then be fed back into the Soviet economy, sparking hyperinflation.

He said he had documents proving the existence of plans to exchange hundreds of billions of roubles."

"When these exchanges involved (private) cash exchanges only, they could be controlled in one way or another. But when banks became involved, it considerably increased the danger," he said.

Pavlov produced documents on two separate deals said to involve Geneva and London-based banks. He added that he had on grounds for making claims against the banks and the documents could be the work of "swindlers."

The point is that a Soviet bank is conducting official correspondence regarding sales of a certain amount of roubles to a foreign bank," he said in reference to an alleged proposal by the prime minister commercial bank.

Pavlov said he was pleased that Western banks had denied participating in such transactions.

"I regret very much that my interview was interpreted as an attack on Western businesses. I did not intend to make any attacks on Western businesses... we stand for cooperation with Western business," he said.

Pavlov, a conservative reformer who was previously finance minister, suggested that the government would act soon to repatriate Soviet hard currency reserves held abroad.

"When exporters sell goods abroad and leave their money abroad this does not help us," he said. "We believe our exporters should bring back their hard currency income and place it in Soviet banks."

Pavlov also said there would be changes in the structure of the

Soviet economy under planned reforms, reducing the role of the central planning organisation Gosplan and ministries responsible for industrial production.

"We are trying to create a system whereby enterprises can be sure that no one will interfere in their business activities," he added.

Earlier, Pavlov warned that opposition by some Soviet republics to the formation of Mikhail Gorbachev's new cabinet could plunge the economy into deeper crisis.

Pavlov announced that a new government structure would be created to determine economic policy and map out the transition of a market economy.

Treasury Soviet republics, Ukraine, Byelorussia and the Russian Federation, say there is no need to form the new cabinet before a new treaty is drawn up determining the degree of autonomy offered to the republics.

"This is an unprofessional approach. It is an artificial delay, which will only deepen the crisis in the economy," Pavlov told a news conference.

The cabinet, directly subordinate to Gorbachev, will have 55 members, compared with 68 previously, he added. Pavlov will head the new economic body, the State Council on Economic Reform.

The tone of Pavlov's remarks suggested he would press ahead in a bid to secure parliamentary support for forming the cabinet.

The post finance minister, formerly occupied by Pavlov, has been vacant since last month.

Confroation between the

central government and the republics increased recently over the issue of price reform, a key plank of moves to make Soviet industry more efficient.

Russia opposes the prime minister's plan to raise prices by an average of 60 per cent because the Kremlin wants to control distribution of increased revenue resulting from the measure.

Russian leader Boris Yeltsin accused Gorbachev of deceiving the people with his economic reforms and demanded his immediate resignation.

Pavlov announced that a new government structure would be created to determine economic policy and map out the transition of a market economy.

"My forecast is positive. Price reform cannot be used as a trump card in a political game and the attempts of some people to make it a trump card will end in failure," Sennachagov told a news conference.

"They are safeguarding their positions politically, but economically they understand that without the price reform, for example, light industry cannot develop," he said. "It is suffocating. Economic absurdity is coming."

Sennachagov said increased revenue from the first price rises would total 312 billion roubles (\$557 billion at the official rate). Compensation through increased wages, pensions and other allowances would cost 265 billion roubles (\$473 billion).

The compensation will be distributed among the 15 Soviet republics, he said.

## Turks want 'sweet deals after the war'

ANKARA (R) — Turkey hopes its anti-Iraq stand in the Gulf crisis will help Turkish contractors win a share in rebuilding Kuwait without hurting their prospects in Iraq.

Iraq owed Turkish contractors nearly \$500 million when United Nations trade sanctions forced them to suspend work on projects ranging from dams and roads to mass housing.

Now they are looking for new business in Iraq as well as Kuwait, where some expect to work alongside U.S. and British companies well-placed to pick up lucrative contracts in a reconstruction drive expected to cost \$30 billion.

"Without a partnership with U.S. or British firms it will be difficult to get sweet deals after the war," Bulent Erdogan, foreign relations manager of Nuro construction firm, said.

"In the past 10 to 15 years, foreign firms have taken the cream and left us with low-profit, long-term jobs in mass housing and infrastructure," he told Reuters.

"Now we want to take part in petrochemical and other high-profit industrial projects, which is why we want partnerships with American and British com-

panies," Erdogan said.

Officials say the government will focus its efforts on a Middle East development bank proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to finance reconstruction after the war.

"We strongly support the establishment of this bank," Mahir Egilmez, deputy under-secretary at the treasury, told Reuters. "Our government will take an active role in its activities, including projects for our contractors in Iraq and Kuwait."

"They consider Turkey as one of the friendly countries that stood with Kuwait and could share in reconstruction," the envoy Faisal Al-Rifa'i, told Reuters this week.

Turkey enforced U.N. sanctions after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait, cutting twin Iraqi oil export pipelines and halting trade with Iraq, then its second biggest trading partner and supplier of 60 per cent of its crude oil needs.

Ankara tied down eight Iraqi divisions by reinforcing its troops no the southeast border and allowed the U.S. air force to use a rebuild effort strongly influenced by Washington.

Egilmez said the United States might push for Cairo to be the headquarters of the bank. Turkey itself, seeking to be a full member of the European Community, was not a candidate.

"We would be seen as a Middle Eastern country, which we do not like. We want to be seen as a European Community," he said.

"Turkey has a position of advantage in post-war projects as it already has a reputation in the Gulf countries," he pointed out.

## Algeria draws large foreign investments

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria determined to pursue an ambitious foreign investment programme despite the Gulf war, has approved eight new joint ventures with foreign firms including a \$3.5 billion petrochemical complex.

A central bank statement said Zarzis-based ASEZA Brown Boveri had teamed up with a private Algerian partner to build a petrochemical plant.

The state electronics firm Enapem plans to assemble microcomputers with Samsung of South Korea, home appliances with Moulinex of France and televisions, washing machines and refrigerators with Ram Dis Ticaret of Turkey.

Under the new laws, foreign firms that invest in production plants can also sell directly to the Algerian market.

The central bank had previously approved 20 applications for direct investment and sales networks by foreign and Algerian firms. About 700 other requests are pending.

Last Wednesday a commerce ministry decree allowed the creation of import-export firms that can compete with former state trading monopolies.

## Britain names price tag for state electricity generation companies

LONDON (R) — Britain Friday put the finishing touches to one of its most troubled privatisations, naming a price tag of £2.16 billion (\$4.37 billion) for the sale of shares in two state electricity generation companies.

Energy Secretary John Wakeham told a news conference the two groups, National Power PLC and Powergen PLC, would be offered for sale to the public at £1.75 (\$3.43) per share.

At that price the companies were offering a dividend yield of about 6.3 per cent, compared with an average 8.4 per cent for the 12 regional electricity distribution companies in England and Wales which were sold last December.

This gives National Power market capitalisation of £2.23 billion (\$4.37 billion) and Powergen £1.37 billion (\$2.68 billion).

Wakeham said: "Today marks the culmination of the privatisation of the electricity supply industry in England and Wales. Last year we successfully privatised the 12 regional electricity companies in what was undoubtedly one of the most successful privatisations this government has undertaken."

But the committee was told a relaxation of ownership rules would do little to help deal with the current crisis.

But Skinner said he was confident that "consolidation is no grounds for panic" and that the industry would remain competitive despite the failure of some carriers.

"That is not being looked at," Skinner said.

U.S. airline companies are beset by huge debts, fallout from the Gulf war and the U.S. economic recession. Several carriers are in or near bankruptcy.

But Skinner said he was confident that "consolidation is no grounds for panic" and that the industry would remain competitive despite the failure of some carriers.

the general policy.

Privatisation of the industry — one of a series of sales of state enterprises by the Conservative government since 1979 — had a troubled beginning.

The nuclear industry had to be dropped from the equation at an early stage when the costs of scrapping old plant were realised and last year there was an abortive attempt to sell Powergen to British industrial conglomerate Hanson PLC.

A total of 1.23 billion shares are being offered for sale in both National Power and Powergen which represents about 60 per cent of the share capital of both of the companies.

Wakeham said: "The total value of the 100 per cent of the capital of National Power and Powergen is some £3.6 billion (\$7 billion) in aggregate."

If the debt the state owns in the two firms — £768 million (\$1.5 billion) — is included, the value to the state from privatisation would amount in aggregate to more than £4.3 billion (\$8.42 billion) at the offer price.

Payment for the shares will be in two instalments, the first of £1 (\$1.95) on application by March 6, and the second next Feb. 4. The minimum application is 300 shares.

The government intends to sell the balance of the shares but has said it would not do so before April 1, 1993.

## U.S. appears to rule out airline bailout, ticket tax break

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner appeared to rule out a bailout for the beleaguered American airline industry, despite pressure from Congress and the industry.

Skinner told reporters after testifying at a Senate Commerce Committee bearing that the administration of President George Bush opposed a plan floated by some carriers to let them retain for their own use, perhaps for a year, a federal 10 per cent ticket tax.

"That is not being looked at," Skinner said.

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Northwest Airlines co-chairman Alfred Chechetti told the committee.

But the committee was told a relaxation of ownership rules would do little to help deal with the current crisis.

Quite frankly, even unrestricted foreign investment in U.S. carriers would do little to solve the industry's capital problem," Northwest Airlines co-chairman Alfred Chechetti told the committee.

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## Thai Armed Forces overthrow premier, impose martial law

BANGKOK (R) — The Thai Armed Forces seized power from civilian Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan Saturday, accusing him of tolerating a corruption-ridden government, and imposed martial law.

Chatichai was arrested by air force officers at Bangkok's airport as he was due to board an aircraft for the northern city of Chiang Mai, an air force official said.

Heavily-armed soldiers backed by armoured cars took over government house, the state-run Radio Thailand building and government television stations Saturday morning.

"Announcing martial law, and army spokesman said the edict would be enforced nationwide. Supreme Commander General Sunthorn Komsongpon, would assume the responsibilities of caretaker prime minister, a military spokesman said.

There was apparently no resistance from Chatichai loyalists to the armed forces' move which was the 16th coup or attempted putsch since absolute monarchy was abolished in 1932.

The National Peacekeeping Command made up of the commanders of the army, navy and

air force and the national police chief has taken over power of national administration as of 11:30 of Feb. 23, 1991. The command has full control of the situation," Sunthorn said in a statement read over army-run Channel Five television.

He was flanked by army Commander-in-Chief General Suchinda Kraprayoon and heads of the navy, air force and police.

A military spokesman, in a later broadcast, listed a litany of complaints against Chatichai.

"Members of this government have taken advantage of their position to build personal fortunes for themselves and their associates in a manner that is unprecedented," he said.

Chatichai had turned blind eye to abuses, he charged. He cited cases of politicians haggling to win contracts for big public projects.

Political appointees had forced out professional civil servants, turning Thailand into a "parliamentary dictatorship," he said.

This was apparently a reference to Chatichai's son and advisor, Kraisak Choonhavan, and his backers who have pursued foreign policy initiatives that run

counter to military thinking, especially on the war in neighbouring Cambodia.

The armed forces also believed the government was trying to distort the investigation into a 1982 plot to assassinate the prime minister, a member of the royal family and other national figures.

Leaflets have circulated in Bangkok accusing Kraisak and a controversial military aide to Chatichai, Major General Maenon Roopchakrorn, of masterminding the plot.

Soldiers in blue scarves took over Radio Thailand, Channel Nine and other government television stations, setting up machinegun posts at the gates.

Channel Nine went off the air mid-way through a Kung Fu film.

A column of 10 tanks rolled from the northern outskirts towards the city centre, Reuters reporter Sutin Wannabovorn said from the scene.

Many analysts and diplomats had believed the army had accepted that coups were outdated.

Thailand's boom depends heavily on foreign investment and the millions of foreign tourists who flock to its bars and beaches. The tourist industry is already suffering because of the Gulf war.

"I really didn't think a coup would happen again," said one Western diplomat.

But the dispute flared again when the investigation into the assassination plot was revived.

Chatichai viewed this as an attempt to embarrass his government. But his manoeuvre Wednesday of appointing army chief General Arthit Kamlang-Ek — a rival of the present military hierarchy — was apparently the last straw for the generals.

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## Soviet army 'has no plans for coup'

MOSCOW (AP) — A top general used the formal Army Day address at a Kremlin gala to say the military has no plans to overthrow the government.

"The representatives of the armed forces do not strive for power," said Gen. Konstantin Kochetov, first deputy minister of defence. "They are not preparing a military coup."

A select audience of about 1,500, including President Mikhail Gorbachev, attended a speech at the Palace of Congresses.

Kochetov did not mention Gorbachev by name in his speech, which repeatedly pledged

allegiance to the constitution and socialism. But he denounced a statement made Tuesday by Russian Republic President Boris Yeltsin calling for Gorbachev's resignation.

"The army and the navy reject the ambitious statement of Boris Yeltsin, his line of opposition and deepening of the split in our society," Kochetov said.

Yeltsin suggested that Gorbachev resign from the Soviet Federation Council, which includes the presidents of all 15 Soviet republics, including Yeltsin himself.

Gorbachev has often been at odds with the republic leaders, who are demanding more autonomy and, in some cases, outright independence. He did not speak during the Army Day ceremony nor did he mingle with the crowd.

Some observers have accused Gorbachev of succumbing to a creeping coup, agreeing to the demands of old-style Communists and the military in order to retain power.

But extreme hardliners want Gorbachev's job. A group calling itself the National Salvation Committee is lobbying legislators to dump Gorbachev and hand over power to them.

## 3 killed in Spain after faulty radiation treatment

MADRID (AP) — A Spanish health official has said he feared the worst for 24 cancer patients who received high doses of radiation when a Zaragoza hospital's linear accelerator went haywire for 10 days. Three other patients have already died.

A judge in the northeastern city of Zaragoza is investigating what the director of the Insalud chain of state-run hospitals called "the worst accident in the world" of its type.

"We fear the worst for some of the patients," Insalud spokesman Fernando Gomez said. "We are seeking information worldwide to find someone who has experience dealing with this kind of situation."

It was unclear whether human error was involved in the accident. The General Electric Linear Accelerator incorporates

several backup safety measures.

Phyllis Piano, spokeswoman for GE Medical Systems in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, said the company is working with authorities in Spain to determine the cause of the accident.

Officials from GE's European headquarters, based in Paris, are working on the investigation, she said.

Hospital officials said the accelerator was now functioning normally.

The Zaragoza corner listed cause of deaths as respiratory arrest due to inflammation of the spinal cord caused by excessive radiation.

Neither health nor hospital officials know how much radiation the victims were exposed to or how much they should have been receiving.

## Taiwan announces proposals for reunification with China

TAIPEI (AP) — A top government advisory group proposed Saturday that Taiwan and Peking recognise each other as political entities and renounce hostility as an initial step toward the reunification of China.

In a meeting chaired by President Lee Teng-Hui, the National Unification Council also proposed that top officials from Taiwan and China exchange visits while authorities from both sides jointly develop the southeastern Chinese coast to pave the way for future talks on reunification.

"Chinese unification should be accomplished in stages under the principles of reasonable, peaceful, equal and reciprocal measures," the council said in proposals passed Saturday.

President Lee is expected to formally announce the package later this month after making some revisions, officials said.

The ruling Nationalist government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to the Communists on the mainland. Both Taipei and Peking still claim to be the legitimate rulers of all China.

Relations between Taiwan and China have improved significantly since 1987, when Taiwan relaxed a ban on contacts between Taiwanese and Chinese.

Taiwan's indirect trade with China through Hong Kong reached a record \$4.4 billion last

## Communism is dead — Former E. German ideologist

BERLIN (R) — The chief ideologist of former East Germany said in an interview published Saturday that communism was dead and he was ashamed to have helped it alive so long.

Otto Reinhold told the Berlin newspaper Der Morgen he realised as early as the second half of the 1980s that the restrictive, centrally-planned East German system could not survive.

"The system, and this is now my firm conviction, could not be reformed," he said in his first interview since the 1989 democratic uprising that ousted the Communist old guard and paved the way for German unification just a year later.

"Socialism is finished for good," he said. "It will never crop up again in industrialised countries."

Reinhold, 65, was East Germany's chief ideologist for more than two decades and also headed the Communist Party's Social Sciences Academy.

In August 1989, as East Germany began to unravel with a mass exodus of people, Reinhold gave the clearest indication that the country would not, or could not, radically change course and remain in being.

"What right to exist would a capitalist East Germany have next to a capitalist West Germany?" he asked in a radio interview.

Proved right on that score, Reinhold has had more than a year to mull over his role in the now-defunct state.

"I'm really ashamed of some of the things I put down on paper," said Reinhold, whose staunchly orthodox articles in the party's theoretical journals were required reading for party members and foreign analysts alike.

In the final stage, both sides should set up bilateral government channels and open direct trade, mail and transportation links.

In the final stage, an institution should be formed for talks on a democratic and united China, the council said.

When the council was formed in October, Taiwan's largest opposition party, the Democratic Progressive Party, passed a resolution renouncing the country's claim over mainland China.

Advocating an independent Taiwan is viewed as a sedition act by the Nationalist government.

## Cholera hits hard where Peru's epidemic broke out

CHANCAY, Peru (R) — They start coming a few hours after lunch, vomiting had gripping their stomachs in pain as doctors frantically jab serum needles into their arms.

Every day, 20 to 60 new victims of Peru's cholera epidemic stream into the hospital at Chancay, a seaside town where the bacterial disease appeared in Latin America last month for the first time in nearly a century.

The epidemic has since raged up and down Peru's Pacific coast,

overwhelming the nation's health system and threatening the rest of Latin America.

"At about four o'clock, they start arriving in big numbers. It's the food they eat at lunch, it must be contaminated," said Gladys Pemberton, a doctor at the sole hospital in this town of 50,000 people.

Cholera victims, pale-faced and some so dehydrated their rib cages stick through their skin, occupy all of the hospital's 33 beds. More are waiting for treatment in the ball.

The epidemic has struck 26,340 people so far — about one in every 850 Peruvians — and killed 134 of them in only a month, the Health Ministry reported Friday.

Though easily treated the disease, spread by contaminated water or food, has killed some of its victims in only a few hours through a combination of acute dehydration and kidney failure.

The epidemic has turned Chancay, a sleepy fishing port 80 kilometres north of Lima, into the front line of an international effort to study and combat the disease which, in its present form, broke out in Indonesia in 1961.

"It's taken 30 years for this pandemic to spread across Asia and Africa and finally reach Latin America. Now that it's implanted here, it's here to stay," said epidemiologist Jean-Paul Boutin.

Reinhold gave the clearest indication that the country would not, or could not, radically change course and remain in being.

"What right to exist would a capitalist East Germany have next to a capitalist West Germany?" he asked in a radio interview.

Proved right on that score, Reinhold has had more than a year to mull over his role in the now-defunct state.

"I'm really ashamed of some of the things I put down on paper," said Reinhold, whose staunchly orthodox articles in the party's theoretical journals were required reading for party members and foreign analysts alike.

In the final stage, both sides should set up bilateral government channels and open direct trade, mail and transportation links.

In the final stage, an institution should be formed for talks on a democratic and united China, the council said.

When the council was formed in October, Taiwan's largest opposition party, the Democratic Progressive Party, passed a resolution renouncing the country's claim over mainland China.

Advocating an independent Taiwan is viewed as a sedition act by the Nationalist government.

He said then-party chief Erich Honecker had been the main barrier to change, locked in a 1930s timewarp where cheap bread, accommodation and a job were the most important values.

## Yugoslav leaders take steps to defuse crisis

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia (AP) — Leaders of Yugoslavia's six republics closer to ending a feud between Communist-ruled Serbia and two republics threatening to declare full independence by summer.

At a fifth round of talks on Yugoslavia's future Friday, the leaders agreed to keep the impoverished federal government going while they search for a solution to a worsening, decade-long crisis.

They also agreed to appoint experts who would examine the options for secession before a sixth round of regional leaders' talks in Belgrade on March 1.

The collective federal presidency should then "propose the constitutional-legal procedure for separation from Yugoslavia" in a way acceptable to all its diverse, feuding regions, a statement on the Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, said.

Regional and federal officials thus acknowledged for the first time the westernmost republics of Slovenia and Croatia could secede.

Lawmakers in both non-Communist republics took concrete steps toward independence this week, voting to give state laws precedence over federal legislation.

Both passed resolutions formalising the process of secession, which they threaten to complete by July.

Croatia's president, Franjo Tudjman said the parties were able to clarify their differences during Friday's talks.

"At least all the cards are on the table," he told reporters upon return to Croatia's capital, Zagreb.

The journalist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said 50 people had been arrested in Friday's unrest, and the Interior Ministry was expected to issue a statement after interrogating them.

The explosion of anger on all sides indicated that violence lurks just beneath the surface as Albania grapples with the cruel legacy of Hoxha, who ruled for 41 years.

Both passed resolutions formalising the process of secession, which they threaten to complete by July.

The radio also broadcast an appeal from Tirana army officers

who appealed for calm and asked for a national referendum "to assess the figure of Enver Hoxha."

## 4 die in Tirana riots

VIENNA (AP) — Shots rang out Saturday at a military academy in the Albanian capital of Tirana, where four people died just hours earlier in a clash of reformers and Communist conservatives, residents said.

The fatal shooting late Friday climaxed three days of unrest in Tirana, where anti-Communist demonstrators tore down a giant statue of Stalinist dictator Enver Hoxha and set fire to his portraits and books earlier this week.

The officers also demanded creation of a presidential council and tight control of the media, which in recent days had broadcast dramatic footage of pro-Hoxha forces and some army officers.

Communist President Ramiz Alia, who has repeatedly appealed for peace on the telephone from Tirana, said he heard sporadic shooting at 9 a.m. (0800 GMT) from the academy, but there were no reports of new casualties. In Tirana, stores were open and summer was normal, as tanks, police and troops guarded strategic points.

The journalist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said 50 people had been arrested in Friday's unrest, and the Interior Ministry was expected to issue a statement after interrogating them.

An official journalist, who spoke on the telephone from Tirana, said he heard sporadic shooting at 9 a.m. (0800 GMT) from the academy, but there were no reports of new casualties. In Tirana, stores were open and summer was normal, as tanks, police and troops guarded strategic points.

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